FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN MAKES STATEMENT.

LD011010 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The Kuwaiti AL-QABAS today quoted Hani al-Hasan, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tehran as saying that ultimately the United States will be compelled to recognize the PLO. According to its declared policy, the United States says that it will not recognize the organization unless the latter recognizes "Israel's right to exist."

In a statement published by AL-QABAS, Al-Hasan said that in our opinion the recognition of the PLO by America or others will take place after a while, adding that the organization "will compel the United States to recognize it due to the armed struggle." He expressed his hope and conviction that Turkey would follow Iran and sever its relations with Israel. He said, "I am convinced that the Muslim people of Turkey will shortly end their country's relations with Israel."

VOP REPORT ON PLO DELEGATION'S VISIT, TALKS IN AMMAN

JN011734 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The PLO delegation, headed by brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, today concluded its visit to Amman following a series of meetings with Jordanian officials.

Yesterday, brother Abu al-Lutf met with King Husayn. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court. The meeting dealt with the latest developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels as well as with relations between the PLO and Jordan.

Brother Abu al-Lutf also met yesterday with Mudar Badran, Jordanian prime minister. The discussion dealt with the developments in the region in light of the U.S. invitation to convene the second Camp David summit.

Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, stressed that the main purpose of the framework of joint Palestinian-Jordanian action is to bolster the political and military resistance of the Palestinians inside the occupied homeland. Abu al-Lutf said that the greatest danger faced by the Palestinian revolution today is the autonomy plan for the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Efforts are being made to foil this conspiracy, he said.

Brother Abu al-Lutf added that his meeting yesterday with King Husayn was very friendly. He confirmed that King Husayn has officially extended an invitation to brother Abu 'Ammar to visit Jordan. This visit will take place soon. Brother Abu al-Lutf also said that an Islamic conference will be held soon and that the main objective of this conference will be to extend the necessary Islamic aid to the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu al-Lutf affirmed that the trend of events in the Middle East is in the interests of the Palestine issue. He praised the agreement between the Palestinian and Iranian revolution. He said that the Iranian earthquake has turned the Zionist entity into (?a weak ally of the United States).

During his visit today to the PLO office in Amman, brother Abu al-Lutf received a memo from Palestinian detainees in Zionist prisons. In addition, three Palestinian girls who were recently released from detention presented brother Abu al-Lutf with a gift of souvenirs made by Palestinian detainees in enemy prisons.

PLO'S QADDUMI ON VISIT TO JORDAN, IRANIAN REVOLUTION

JN020846 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Mar 79 pp 1, 11 JN

[Text] Amman--Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chairman, has told the AR-RA'Y correspondent that it has been agreed that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan shortly.

Qaddumi said that the views of the Palestinian delegation and the Jordanian officials were identical. He said that the Arab nation is passing through a serious stage. All Arab efforts must be pooled to stand against Zionist and U.S. plans, the danger of which is embodied in the Camp David agreements.

Qaddumi said that U.S. imperialism and world Zionism have begun to lose their influence in the area, particularly after the blessed Iranian revolution and the efforts being exerted to realine Turkey with the Islamic path.

Qaddumi said that the Arab nation's awareness and unity are the most important elements in continuing the struggle to liberate Palestine. Events prove that this question cannot be solved through peaceful or capitulatory means.

In reply to a question on the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog, Qaddumi said: Brothers will inevitably meet, regardless of differences. A brother is a brother. The danger menacing the Arab nation is imminent and horrible. Meeting at this stage is not only a national and pan-Arab necessity but is required for survival. The plots being hatched against the Arab area in general and the Palestinian issue in particular are too large to cope with by one party.

Qaddumi went on by saying: As-Sadat's deviation from the Arab ranks, his serious initiative and the concessions he offered Israel--I do not want to describe these too vividly because I feel we should talk on a decent level--require unified stand and views. Praise be to God, things proceeded with the brothers here as one would expect from a brother. As I said, we are brothers. It is enough to tell you that brother Abu 'Ammar will visit Jordan shortly. All the results of our discussions were positive. Concerning our people in the West Bank, Qaddumi said: We are proud of their steadfastness and heroism. They are the pillar of our struggle and we are doing our utmost to reach them. God willing, the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog will be a good start in drawing closer to them. We in the PLO are living their problems, the detainees' problems, the hard living conditions, the torture and murder. They are our brothers and their steadfastness deepens our faith and their struggle keeps our cause alive. There is not a homeland without people and no people without steadfastness.

On the Iranian revolution, Qaddumi said: We have been allied with this revolution for 10 years, given our limited resources. We knew that the people were stronger. The success of the people's demands is inevitable. We faced problems and hardships as a result of our alliance, but God's will and the people's will supported the Iranian revolution. The revolution has succeeded and it is now our ally and supporter.

Concerning the presence of certain errors and contradictions within the PLO, Qaddumi said: Only God is perfect. He who works makes mistakes. We are acting to contain and to reduce these errors and contradictions.

BAHRAIN

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN MANAMA

JN021011 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 3 March--Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general, said that he will meet her with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah and that they will discuss the current PDRY-YAR conflict.

In a statement he made to the GULF NEWS AGENCY upon his arrival this morning, Mahmud Riyad added that the urgent Arab League Council meeting to be held in Kuwait on Sunday will attempt to pass appropriate resolutions in agreement with the concerned parties.

Mahmud Riyad described the current fighting between the two Yemens as a threat to general Arab security. He called on the governments concerned to end the fighting and to adhere totally to the forthcoming Kuwait meeting resolutions.

Mahmud Riyad is expected to meet here later today with Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah.

KUWAIT

YAR MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT

LD011536 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--YAR Information Minister, Muhammad Salim al-Basindwa, has expressed his country's deep appreciation to all Arab brothers who are making efforts to stop the shedding of innocent Yemeni blood and put an end to the fighting between the two Yemeni regions. He said at a press conference in Kuwait today: We welcome the convening of the Arab foreign ministers' conference Sunday to discuss this issue, and we stress our anxiety to cooperate with this conference and for its success, out of our concern to enable our Arab nation to save its energies for confronting our enemies.

The YAR, he said, considers the aggression on it a new link in the chain of suspicious international plans which are aimed at not only the independence of Yemen but that of all the states of the region [words indistinct]. The reason for all this, he added, is the geographical position of North Yemen, a position which has made Yemen a secure barrier for the rest of the countries of the region. Had we agreed that our northern part become a spearhead for the export of subversion and plots to others, we would not have been exposed to what we are being exposed today.

Regarding reports that the battles at the border of North Yemen were being fought by units from the northern part, units which are opposed to the regime in San'a', he said that the weapons which were used in the battles can be available only to a state which enjoys a preferential and priority position. MiG-21's, T-62 tanks, BM 40 and 21 rockets and Katyusha rockets were used in the battle.

He asked: Is it possible for the so-called front or units to possess such arms?

He added: The story of the so-called front is but a communist tactic, using the names of imaginary organizations in order to justify their aggression on the states and the regimes opposing them. He said that his country is against communism in the region and is also against Western capitalism.

His country is not seeking protection in the arms of either East or West; it interacts and amalgamates with the Arab nation. His country, he added, will not allow the United States or others to intervene. Yemen is capable of defending itself even by [word indistinct]. He explained that if America has announced the sale of arms to North Yemen the agreement on these arms is an old one.

He added that the U.S. statements at this time are but another attempt to escalate the situation, this being part of the agreement to exercise the game of international struggle over the territory of Yemen. We are aware of the gravity of this and will not allow it.

He denied that forces from the north have entered territory of the southern part; the opposite has happened.

He said that San'a' still regarded the Soviet Union a friendly state and is anxious to maintain friendship with it. We hope that neither the Soviet Union nor the United States will interfere in the affairs of Yemen. We are with the Arabs and we are not with the United States or with the Soviet Union; we refuse that our country be an instrument for either. He said that Yemen's purchasing of U.S. arms is but a part of its policy to diversify the sources and that the greater part of the present armament of the Yemeni Army is from Soviet sources; most of it is old and unsophisticated. He denied that there were any U.S. military experts in the northern part, and he confirmed the presence of military experts from the Soviet Union. He also denied that (?his country) had proposed that the Arab foreign ministers' conference be held in Cairo, but in an Arab country agreed upon by other brothers.

SCORED FOR U.S. STATEMENTS ON PROTECTING INTERESTS

LD271024 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 27 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Yesterday the [word indistinct] statements of U.S. officials followed one another, speaking of U.S. arrangements to protect U.S. interests even by military intervention. On this subject AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in its editorial today writes: "The United States is using the traditional Saudi concern about the Soviet Union in an attempt to create doubts and illusions about the presence of external danger aimed at the region in order to remain in a controlling position and to impose (?fear) to plunder oil and its monies."

The paper calls for commonsense and conscience, for the American veil has finally fallen and what was behind it has been exposed. It then wonders "is there anyone who believes that the Soviet Union is preparing its armies to invade the region and imagines that the American specter would prevent these armies from invading?"

It concludes its comment by saying: "If it is the concern of the Americans and the Soviets to protect our interests, the expression regularly used by U.S. officials, then let us be concerned also with protecting our own interests."

OMAN

EGYPTIAN TROOPS IN OMANI TERRITORY DENIED

LD012124 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Rabat 1 March, MAP--The embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Rabat said today that Oman's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement which says:

Certain news agencies have recently reported that there are Egyptian Army units in the Sultanate of Oman. The Foreign Ministry denies that these units are present on its territory and it has not made a demand for them.

Oman's armed forces are in a state of utmost readiness to defend the territory and protect Oman's sovereignty against any external aggression. The Sultanate of Oman will consider assistance from its friends should the need arise.

QATAR

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTERVIEWED

NC011406 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 1 March--Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani has stressed that the events in Iran are domestic matters. He said that in this respect his country's policy is specific and clear: Qatar has always believed in neighborliness and positive cooperation between peoples, and is eager to see the Arab and Islamic states enjoy security, stability and national unity so that they may be able to solve their economic problems and devote their efforts to constructiveness and prosperity.

He also affirmed that Qatar believes in coordination and cooperation among the gulf states as a practical answer to the alleged presence of a political vacuum in the area. He pointed out that keeping the gulf area far away from international conflicts is not only a demand by the gulf states but also an international demand encouraged by the United Nations. The minister also believes that the Indian Ocean must be kept out of this conflict. He stressed that the right of the states to freely exploit their own resources within the context of international cooperation leading to mutual benefit is the soundest means of avoiding this conflict.

In an interview published today in the Qatari weekly magazine AL-'URUBAH, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani was asked about the possibility of achieving a just peace in the Middle East. He reaffirmed Qatar's stand on this issue, namely that no peace can be achieved in the Middle East unless the Palestine question is solved and a just settlement made which is acceptable to the Palestinian people, under PLO leadership, and unless the Israelis withdraw from occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

Asked about his view on the possibility of proclaiming the formation of a Palestinian Government-in-exile, and whether this will give a new thrust to the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani said: Qatar supports any decision adopted by the PLO, which is well aware of the interests of its people and its eagerness is always worthy of confidence and appreciation.

In this respect, he expressed confidence that the Palestinian people will shortly set up their independent state in spite of all obstacles and difficulties, because the Palestinian people are continuously making unlimited sacrifices.

On the situation in Lebanon, the Qatari minister of state said he believes that Lebanon will rebuild what the war had destroyed and that the Arabs will not hesitate to contribute toward achieving this.

The Qatari minister of state noted that those who attended the Bayt ad-Din conference in Lebanon and the Baghdad summit had unanimously agreed to preserve the sovereignty, safety and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Therefore, he said, deviation from this Arab unanimity by any Lebanese side is a departure from legitimacy in Lebanon.

Answering another question, he praised the unitary steps of Syria and Iraq and terms them "an achievement worthy of attention and appreciation." He affirmed that Arab solidarity and Arab unity are a pan-Arab prerequisite in view of the Zionist challenges and international ambitions confronting the Arab nation. Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani affirmed that in its Arab and international policy Qatar always seeks to intensify its efforts in various Arab and international fields to support just causes and to safeguard Arab rights.

'ARAFAT DEPARTS DOHA, MAKES STATEMENT

NC011218 Doha QNA in Arabic 1142 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 1 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Doha this afternoon for Damascus after a brief visit to Qatar as part of a tour to a number of states in the area.

Before his departure, 'Arafat said that the discussions which he and his Palestinian delegation had with the Amir of Qatar covered all aspects of the Palestine question at Palestinian, Arab and international levels as well as current Arab developments in the area at local and international level. 'Arafat said: The discussions were, as always, positive and fraternal. I can say that my discussions with his highness the amir were fruitful, positive and constructive. 'Arafat added that his visit to Qatar was part of a tour to meet his brothers in the gulf states to exchange views on latest developments in the area.

PAPER COMMENTS ON GULF STATES' SECURITY

NC261314 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 26 February--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB calls for urgent moves by the gulf states in order to consolidate the unity among the people of the region and to affirm the fraternal and historic relations between the gulf states and Iran.

In today's editorial, the newspaper says the powers that are talking about the security of the gulf, in order to create the false impression that the region will face challenges and difficulties, should be the last to talk about such a thing because the defense of the region's security is the task of its inhabitants first and foremost.

The paper expects these powers to continue their allegations about the danger that is threatening this region, because these powers want to create such dangers in order to pave the way for their presence in the region. AL-'ARAB adds that this makes evident the importance of moves by the gulf states in order to thwart such maneuvers. The paper affirms that the gulf states alone have the right to determine the outlines of the next stage and to move accordingly. The paper adds that these states are capable of defending themselves and have no need for all the organs that are warning about the dangers threatening the area, because these states are aware of what is happening around them.

UAE

MAURITANIAN PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN011439 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1322 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 March--Mohamed el Moktar Ould Zamel, Mauritanian minister of planning, economic studies and financing, arrived in Abu Dhabi today. He was received by Mr Ahmad Mansur, Planning Ministry under secretary, and Khadri Muhammad, Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi.

The minister said that he will convey a letter to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Mauritanian President Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck. The letter deals with strengthening the fraternal relations between the two countries and with cooperation in various fields.

YEMEN--PDRY

PDRY-YAR AGREEMENT REACHED ON CEASE-FIRE

JN020947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--INA has learned that the efforts of the envoys from Presidents' al-Bakr and al-Asad, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Planning 'Adnan Husayn and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, have resulted in an agreement to declare a cease-fire in the two Yemens as of 8 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The two sides have also agreed to discuss special arrangements for withdrawing forces during the urgent Arab League meeting to be held in Kuwait on Sunday.

INA has also learned that the main principles of the agreement have been found to be appropriate by both PDRY President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

IRAQI, SYRIAN ENVOYS ARRIVE IN ADEN

JN021126 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 2 March--'Adnan Husayn and Jamil Shayya, envoys from Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hafiz al-Asad, arrived here at noon today.

The two envoys will hold a new round of consultations, which have resulted in fixing the early hours of tomorrow morning, Saturday, as the time for the cease-fire between the two parts of Yemen.

Also arriving for the same purpose and on the two envoys' plane was Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs and King Husayn's envoy.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY TEACHING STAFF

NC011955 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1847 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Speech delivered by President Anwar as-Sadat at a meeting with the president, professors and teaching staff of Alexandria University on 28 February--recorded]

[Excerpt] Regrettably, the democratic practice in Egypt has been based until today on old concepts. One stands up and asks: What is the benefit of the tunnels going to Sinai? Is this possible? This is one of the questions asked in the People's Assembly. They say that this project, instead of costing 30 million pounds, cost 120 million pounds. What is the importance of these tunnels, and why are we building them in our situation? I consider the tunnels to be a national issue of the highest level of importance; anyone who does not realize this does not deserve to have any role among the people. He must keep out. Why? We have neglected Sinai throughout history. It is a holy land. God Almighty spoke to Moses there in the first heavenly message. It was the first and last time God spoke to man on earth, beginning with the three heavenly messages. This was in Sinai. He described it and said "behold, the Lord did call to him in the sacred valley of Tuwa." He swore by it: "By the fig and the love and the mount of Sinai."

My land is sacred. [Words indistinct]. When we build a tunnel the opposition comes out. The opposition is following the old methods: occupation at the hands of Sa'di rather than independence at the hands of 'Adli [references to political figures during the monarchy]. Everyone said that he was the only one suitable to govern Egypt. But what kind or rule [words indistinct]. When we undertake a supreme national issue, like the tunnels, I say that even if it costs 1 billion pounds let it be. During the construction immediately after the October War, We began rebuilding Suez, Port Said and Ismailia so that the evacuees could return to their homes. The evacuees lived 7 or 8 years away from their cities and homes under the worst living conditions. The schools, which used to accommodate 100 or 200, were occupied by 1,000 people. They were overoccupied. I decided that priority must be given to the canal cities, which were suffering for the sake of all of Egypt. Why? Because air conditioning and hot water were never cut in Cairo. The Suez Canal people went to live in schools. This is a national decision, and needs no explanation. As I have already said, one smile on the face of a child, man or a daughter who has returned to their city, quarter and home fills me with happiness as being the most splendid achievement in history. When one sacrifices for his country, his country should give him priority. That is why I said that priority must be given to the canal region. I gave an order in this regard and three cities were rebuilt--Suez [words indistinct], Ismailia rebuilt completely, and a large part of Port Said. After Port Said becomes a free zone, the governorate will make a splendid housing project. Whoever is seeking a change from the valley now goes to Port Said.

There is something called mother Egypt. When the brother asks me what is the nature of this meeting, I say it is a meeting of the Egyptian family. I did not come here to ask you to join the National Democratic Party. No. The National Democratic Party does not figure in my speech to you today, and did not figure in my speech yesterday. The National Democratic Party or any other party is just a constitutional method that the world has tested and found to be the best possible method for practicing democracy with fewer mistakes. There is something called mother Egypt, which should come before the National Democratic Party and anything else. Therefore, to consolidate our new party life, which is based on opinion and opposite opinion through the multiplicity of parties, we must begin from a sound starting point.

We agree that there is something called mother Egypt, and we must not disagree on its national objectives. Let me give you a simple example: When Khomeyni of Iran was in Iraq, exiled by the shah--you all have read and heard about his hostility to the shah--the Iraqis, before they negotiated with the shah and before they concluded the agreements on Shatt al-Arab and the Kurds, went to Khomeyni, who was living in An-Najaf in Iraq, and told him: We will cooperate with you against the shah, and you will cooperate with us against the shah. He told them: No. I am opposed to the shah and am calling for the downfall of the shah and all the royal family. But this is our own affair.. I will not enter into anything with you against my country. The picture is clear; the picture is clear.

I was in Salzburg last summer, as were Israeli Defense Minister Weizman and Peres; they were representing the opposition. Musa Sabri wanted to embarrass Peres at the press conference at which I was present along with Brandt and Kreisky. Muss desired to corner Peres and ask him for his opinion about Begin's method of governing, about something tantamount to Begin's obduracy and about the views held by the opposition--and Peres is the opposition leader; he is the leader of the opposition Labor Party.

Peres gave Musa Sabri the reply that you have all heard. Peres told Sabri that as far as the opposition is concerned, this is a constitutional action that we exercise for the sake of democracy. However, when it comes to Israel's objectives, we all stand as one.

Why am I citing these two examples? Up to this day, and I want our people to hear this dialog that is going on among us, the exercise of democracy is pursuing old lines. What are these lines? They involve casting doubts on the conscience of people, leveling unjust accusations and projecting an obnoxious image of others. Even when we initiated democracy--and the veterans among us are the contemporaries of this democracy--who could publish a newspaper without a license prior to the 23 July revolution, or even after the 23 July revolution, before I took office? When someone wanted to publish a newspaper, what did he do and what happened to him?

Then we promulgated the parties law, which we agreed on at the last People's Assembly session. The opposition then walked out and left the hall for the then majority party. The law was promulgated. It contained a proviso stipulating that a party that is officially set up has the right to issue a newspaper without obtaining a permit from anybody.

Naturally, both the Liberal Socialist Party and the National Progressive Unionist Party published papers. I will send you the issues of the paper that was published by the National Progressive Unionist Party. This is because I am talking frankly--without evasiveness. I am accustomed to [remark left incomplete and followed by laughter]. They issued the AL-AHALI newspaper without asking for a permit from the interior minister--as was the practice under the king and in wake of the 23 July revolution--the publications department or any other of the defunct quarters.

AL-AHALI is merely a leaflet out of which flows the worst smell of the destruction of the country's values and of the cause of mother Egypt. I am in possession of these issues. I am going to send them to you and to the People's Assembly. This is because I take this opportunity to tell you that even though we are exercising our new practice, I regret that it is imperative for a People's Assembly committee to sit down and consider every application for publishing a newspaper. This committee will name the applicant and, at a public session, it will ask every citizen who has a remark to make about this applicant to do so at the People's Assembly. The applicant will apply to the People's Assembly committee, which will make a decision. There will never be a tampering with democracy.

We advocated freedom and democracy. Up to this day, our brothers of the National Progressive Unionist Party and Moscow are still calling 18 and 19 January a patriotic uprising. There are no others, they alone call it an uprising. Naturally, at this time the remnants of the reactionary right have been joined by a few members of the left. They have become (?united). You are all aware of the results of the elections and do not need me to tell you about them. When they combined all their forces, they won only 0.1 percent. Well, our returns at referendums are 99.9 percent and will continue to be 99.9 because we hide nothing [words indistinct]. We do it before the Egyptian people, and never behind the people's back--and all these things amount to 99.9. The 0.1 percent includes all these types.

No. [Word indistinct] is imperative for the sake of a sound exercise. By God, when we construe democracy as meaning that we should attack the sublime goals of Egypt, then do we deserve democracy? No. But I want to tell you something: The broad spectrum of our people--this exceeds 95 percent--believe in democracy in the highest and most splendid degree of national awareness. All you are hearing are emotions, which, regrettably, are the emotions of a group. They are either personal emotions or are motivated by other forces against the country.

What I am demanding is this: Let us exercise the fullest form of freedom. However, it is imperative for a moral obligation to exist. At this point, we return to our roots because in Egypt there is a word called shame. We know that there are restrictions on everything. Nothing is unrestricted. We also know that we do nothing shameful; this is a result of Egypt's tradition.

What kind of progressivness tells you hollow things, such as the statement that values, religion and morals are all reactionary. We must negate such statements for the sake of progressiveness and to build the country. This is empty talk that is absolutely incompatible with Egypt.

At this point, so that I will not take a long time and inconvenience you, I wil go back to the basic subject. In other words, let us leave from a sound point of departure. We now want to build an edifice for our generation and for coming generations. We want to establish a sound democracy about which I am absolutely not asking much. I ask that every Egyptian man and woman should feel that they are above parties, persons and awards. Mother Egypt comes above everything and before everything. At this point, we all meet as an Egyptian family. Then, there are no partisanship, parties, leaders or persons. Nobody will enjoy any privileges, except through the services he renders to mother Egypt.

This is what I am asking for: We form a family. We begin with the governorates. Every governorate first forms a family. Out of these families, I form the whole Egyptian family.

Every province constitutes a family. All of them together form the entire Egyptian family. This is why I say that I come to you today not as the leader of the National Democratic Party but as head of the Egyptian family. Of this I am proud and always will be proud. To me neither being the president of the republic, the leader of a party, nor a government compares with it. Absolutely nothing compares with it.

The sound course, as we build (?our country), is that we agree that there is such a thing as a supreme value, something sacred called Egypt, and that when it comes to Egypt's major issues we are all equal, from the president of the republic to the smallest person we are equal as far as responsibility is concerned. We are all for Egypt and we do not disagree when it comes to Egypt's interests.

However, to formulate a constitutional structure we say there should be parties. Every harmonious group lays down certain principles.

It is to be borne in mind that the aim of the parties must not be to level accusations, cast doubts, utter abuses or try to strike at the national unity by repeating words which, to say the least, can be described as words of destruction and subversion.

All I ask is that we start on a sound course. We say Egypt is above all parties, above all individuals, above all leaders, above all degrees and above everything. It is sacred. On this basis we form parties. This is only a method in the exercise of consultation as God Almighty ordered in the holy Koran, so that no ruler will make his decision exclusively. Consultation exists and people's affairs are a matter for consultation among them. God willed that even the Prophet must consult although a prophet is always infallible. None of us ordinary human beings is infallible, but even the Prophet, who was infallible, was told by God to consult the people. We human beings all commit mistakes and we certainly must resort to consultation as a course and method and this means democracy.

If you talk to me about the building of man I would tell you that this is a very important matter at this stage. Thank God we have a very solid essence. All we need is to remove the lid or the dust off the surface to let this essence shine through. We have values, we have our creed and we have a society of solidarity in the village where everyone feels for the other, where everyone helps his brother, and where they share all good and bad. We have all this. We have our values. However, if our way of life means formation of various parties, this does not mean that the parties are everything or that they are above everything or come before everything as some had wished them to be.

I tell you, regrettably, to this moment the democratic practice in Egypt is faulty because some parties imagine that there is only the old experiment for them to fall back on. This is what we were told by those who ushered in the constitution and incomplete independence and who took over. They said that that was real democracy. What was it all about? It was an incomplete independence with the king there and the British doing exactly what they wanted to do through the parties and through the king. They wrongly gave us to understand that partisanship means that a party in the opposition should abuse, insult and cast doubt on the ethics of the party in office. They went so far as to undermine people's honor. They permitted themselves to do anything. Is this democracy? Not at all.

This is why I say that the right approach is that we should embark on a completely new start as a family. As I have told you, I am not here to campaign for the National Democratic Party. No, not at all. Above the National Democratic Party and above partisanship and everything else there is mother Egypt with its objectives and its supreme national interests.

As I have said, building the Egyptian human being will not be very difficult because the essence is there. What we must do is brush off the dust that has collected on the surface. There is no doubt that religion is one of the prerequisites for the making of man, because it means faith, faith as in the Torah, the Bible and the Koran. A man full of faith is the strongest man. He fears no one. He does his duty and carries out his mission in life to the best of his ability, in all sincerity publicly and in secret. Such a man succeeds 100 percent. With faith such a man can face all storms.

Yes, you have a problem in Alexandria. You have a problem in Alexandria. This problem is that there are religious groups of my grandsons. These poor groups are misled. Values and religion are interlinked. We all require religion whether we are Muslim, Copt or Christian, at least for the sake of values. It has never been proved that evil is better than good. In other words, and to those who say there is no God, I say: No. There is a God and He has told us this is good and this is evil. It has been proved that evil does not achieve anything; it is good which achieves things. Furthermore, evil is obnoxious and destructive.

Concerning faith, your boys have fallen prey to [words indistinct] old groups. They want authority and they want to govern the place. They believe that God Almighty and the Islamic religion are of no value except through them. They also believe they are God's successors as rulers on earth. These are the brothers whom you know. I can tell you a story because I am also a veteran and because I am a contemporary of Hasan al-Banna. I wrote these things some 25 years ago. Naturally, you will be surprised because for 25 years I did not think [words indistinct] I wrote these things some 25 years ago. I was with Hasan al-Banna. I was then a junior officer preparing for the free officers' movement. I wrote these things about 25 years ago, and in the lifetime of 'Abd an-Nasir and of the whole world, I saw with my own eyes how Al-Banna purchased arms. He showed me the arms, the underground organization and everything they had done. I knew all of them and they all knew me. This is because I sat down with Al-Banna, not with the minions. I know all these things. Does Islam mean that we should kill Shaykh adh-Dhahabi with arms so as to accede to power because all those who live in Egypt are atheists? Or is ruling appropriate only through God's successors on earth represented by the group which exploits these students and young men? By God, I was astounded. They are now telling me that while writing about [words indistinct], your student union asked for a list of the books which were to be exhibited. They removed all the books of Taha Husayn, Al-'Aqqad and all the others. Can a student union remove these books? Can they remove the writings of Taha Husayn, who has written splendid things which delight the eyes of the readers? Can they catch the students and make them decide what books can be read and what books cannot be read?

To me, a student has no power because he has a guardian until he graduates. A student has his guardian and he is not yet mature enough to be treated as a mature person. I tell him: Enough. Your guardian is there. This is because the student unions are striking off these books. They are very good at saying: No, these books will not be shown to the students and we will not let them be shown to the students. This is the way they act. They are fanatics. Is religion like this? No. Religion is open. There were scientists in the day of Islam. You are university instructors. We had our scientists of medicine, engineering, astronomy, arithmetic, algebra and the other sciences. There is no sorcery in Islam, particularly as far as our great scientists are concerned. Just one of our scientists alone can master jurisprudence, astronomy and mathematics together [words indistinct].

We asked the boys. They said that, naturally, the upshot of this is that they should bring about specific trends and specific writings and that this is the only thing which will be done. In this behavior, they are like the communists. This is regrettably so, because the way they view things is the same. [Words indistinct] they belong to the very same school. It is imperative for them to form the mind of any boy or girl in a limited manner. They close the minds of the boys and the girls to right or left.

This is an erroneous exercise of democracy. It is erroneous at the root. This is also an erroneous understanding of religion. I say it to you and I repeat it so that Egypt will hear it and so that all my sons will hear it, particularly those in your city. There must be no religion in politics and no politics in religion. I have told you--I can possibly leave this story for one of our meetings at Alexandria University--how the Muslim brotherhood movement emerged and developed into an underground terrorist organ for achieving power and what commandments this movement was to carry out. This is because I do not derive this talk from books. No. I am an eyewitness to the actions of their top leader, namely, Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, the author of the idea, of the call and of everything. I am telling you that I was present when all these things happened. I saw the arms and the person who bought the arms for Hasan al-Banna in the underground organization is still alive. I can summon him whenever I want. On a certain day, I summoned him while I was sitting with Shaykh al-Banna so that he would seek my opinion about the arms, because I am an officer.

In other words, is it in keeping with Islam in any way that Prime Minister an-Nuqrashi [former Egyptian Prime Minister an-Nuqrashi Pasha] should be killed because they wanted to assume power? Regrettably, remnants of those who were working along this line want to exploit our young boys by means of the call for membership in the Muslim brotherhood. Just as our instructor who spoke first said, we want to know the concept of religion. We want to know precisely what is the concept of the democracy on which we are embarking. We are embarking on a democratic (?life) and it is imperative that Egypt be sacrosanct before everything else. Then we can quarrel over secondary matters. Our quarrel would be in favor of building man and achieveing freedom, security and safety for the Egyptian citizens. This is what we would (?confine) our differences to. Well, the parties of the whole world have differed among themselves. This is absolutely not a question of individuals. The same concepts apply to religion.

On education, I agree that our education programs from elementary to university levels must be turned upside down. I do not see any (?stock) in any of my sons the graduates but I do see what stock of general knowledge my sons who go to universities abroad have, and how much they understand their environment, and so on and so forth. Add to this their wide scope. Our system does not (?provide) this; we do not take this into consideration from the elementary level. It is not sufficient to lend it attention just in the universities; it must start at the elementary level, not at the university level. No, it must start at the elementary level and move upward.

Many things, in fact everything that I have raised, require revision and frankness. You can see that I hide absolutely nothing. I say, as I said at the Canal University, in the coming phase [words indistinct] there is no such thing as the Higher Education Ministry. There is such a thing as independent universities, each working in its position together with the governor. You sit down with your governor, with the local council and with [word indistinct] to decide what is best for Alexandria University. I no longer interfere with you. But what is important is that you should not (?ignore) the students, who should have a guardian to tell them what to read and what not to read. [words indistinct] Regrettably many values in our country have been eroded and loosened under various pretexts. None of this--hiding behind religion, communism or scientific socialism, whatever they say about them [sentence left incomplete].

I believe that in Egypt we enjoy one thing. We had experienced the democracy of the period before the 23 July revolution, the democracy of the despicable abominable partisanship which the people swept aside. We also experienced scientific socialism, which almost disturbed all our generations. To this day there is a (?vacuum) among our youth. You know about the religious groups who (?controlled) the youth. As I told you, as a result of the vacuum the youth were exploited by some who still harbored the dreams of the past--that religion is a means to glory, wealth, power and government, (?by murder) or anything, and that everything is permissible. Under the new era, this will not be so. I tell you this frankly, clearly and irrevocably. This is exactly like someone who would try to set up a kind of old partisanship as in the case of (?that party) which was formed by a man who, you all know, was the epitome of abominable political opportunism. Regrettably, some of the Cairo University professors joined him. It is disgraceful. I consider it disgraceful, because this person is the prime example of political opportunism and political corruption. There is no need to recall all this.

The building of man is [words indistinct] We want a sound beginning. Let everyone know that Egypt is above all. If there is anyone who does not want to understand it, I will make him understand it. I am the head of the family. I am not the head of the National Democratic Party before being the head of the Egyptian family. No. Above all I am the head of the family.

Anyone who does not respond to mother Egypt is a deviate. We by nature (?resent) this, so why [words indistinct]. True, as the head of the family I am responsible for such a person, but by God--it has happened, will happen--in the coming phase I will not tolerate (?it). Having said this I add that we will enter democracy through its widest door. [words indistinct] Fu'ad [presumably the governor of Alexandria] is one of you. Even if he is not one of you, of the town, you can sit with him. Sit together and change everything and do everything for Egypt and the good of Egypt. I will bless you, boost you and support you. Why? Our will is free and we have no trustee and none can tell us what to do or what not to do. This is why I say democracy through its widest gates, but never will I allow religion to be exploited in politics. I will not allow a student while he is a student and while he has a guardian to be himself the guardian of the university (?or to tell the boys to read this and not to read that. This is wrong.) Nor will I allow the opposition to ultimately abuse, insult, undermine or attempt to destroy national unity at any price. At present we are engaged in the battle of fate.

[Words indistinct] many Egyptian journalists, who are still in the field of journalism, are insulting their country over Iraq's radio and from France and with their own signatures to this day. Some journalists are even hired to abuse Egypt in return for the hard oil currency, to this day.

All this [words indistinct] in the coming phase. I want you to work with me in the operation of beginning the building by taking the right approach. Our aim is to lay down the democratic foundations and traditions and provide prosperity for the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people, their security, prosperity, future generations, safety, supremacy of the law, and release of the Egyptian people's faculties is our aim. Building every Egyptian man means building all Egypt.

I am sorry I took so long. There will be other meetings, God willing, before (?the 26th). I believe that, God willing, we will have other meetings and we will talk. I will send you specific topics. We will specify a topic for every meeting lest we stray from the topic. [applause]

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES LAND TRANSPORT WORKERS IN ALEXANDRIA

NC011455 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met in Alexandria this morning with land transport workers. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for National Democratic Party Affairs Muhammad Ahmad al-'Uqayli, Alexandria Governor Muhammad Hilmi Fu'ad, and National Democratic Party Secretary in Alexandria Muhammad 'Abdallah.

President as-Sadat delivered a speech at this meeting in which he said: I wanted to meet with you during my visit to Alexandria this time because we have begun a completely new stage when I delegated the powers of the president of the republic to the governors for the sake of sound democratic practice. They distorted democracy in the past and forgot that democracy means that people must live with peace of mind and express their opinion with complete freedom.

In the past, only a small group exercised this freedom while the majority of the people were deprived of this right. It was a curse to say that a certain citizen is a peasant or a worker. Today, we have parties, opinions and counteropinions for the realization of democracy. There is no place among us for people who cast doubt. The parties work through the Egyptian citizens to achieve prosperity for the entire homeland.

The prerevolution parties have ended and will not return. The monarchy and colonialism have also ended. Our ethics are those of a single family. We have embarked on a genuine practice of democracy. Each governorate now constitutes an entire family. Any decision taken by the governor is basically designed to bring happiness and welfare to the citizens of his governorate. The largest Egyptian family--Egypt--is made up of all these families.

The president said: We are now taking great steps toward democracy that will have their effect in the future. Our aim is to see that Egypt is above parties, government and everything else. We must stand as one person for the sake of the supreme national interests of Egypt and in confronting our great battles. We no longer have a ruler who dictates his opinions. Everyone--people and government--is working for the supreme interest of Egypt. All are equal in rights, duties and responsibilities. No one is better than another except in serious fruitful work for himself and his country. Since the 23 July revolution, the broad base, the peasants and workers, have received 50 percent representation in the People's Assembly. We are working with full freedom to build democracy, prosperity and all the sound concepts of political and democratic practice. The time of opportunism has ended for good. Today we are building with our own free will. No king, foreigner, colonialist or great power will make decisions for us. Apart from some exceptions, who represent 0.1 percent, the broad base of the population is 100-percent sound. We are not concerned about this. What we are concerned about is the establishment of a sound basis for democratic practice based on the supreme interest of Egypt. We must then organize ourselves in the parties that express differing opinions without casting doubts and without back-stabbing, which the communists or those hiding behind religion are doing. We shall correct these elements without affecting their dignity so that they can understand the supreme interest of the country and return to their senses so that Egypt remains above all.

The president then talked about the decision to take all the large vehicles away from government officials and give them to the transport union to form a company for transporting passengers between the regions in order to make things easier for the citizens. The state will only use small vehicles. Under the new code of behavior, performance is equal in responsibility, whether he be the ruler or the subject. We must go ahead with the special measures to cut state expenses. We must also begin to change many of our customs. The rule today is that of the people, unlike what existed during the days of the king and the British. The Cabinet today is not one of pashas; it represents the people. This came about after the people's will became free. Credit goes to whoever achieves the aims of Egypt. Everything will be divided fairly. Taxes will be distributed fairly. The sons of each governorate will work with the governor to find the systems that will achieve security and safety for the present and future generations.

The president added: the road before us is long. We have started on it correctly, disregarding clamors and suspicions. After our land became our own property and after we became the masters of our own decision and will, performance, revolutionary purity and sound action have become our tenets. We only need to go ahead and achieve the aims of victory.

The president then discussed the current talks on the Middle East crisis. He said: After his return from Washington, we discussed with the prime minister the question of the Middle East and its various stages. U.S. President Carter has contacted me. I am waiting for his analysis of the situation, which will reach me tomorrow or the day after.

The president affirmed that the Middle East issue is no longer the most important issue in Egypt; the prosperity of the citizens and how to build a happy home for everyone is the most important issue in Egypt. We shall try to solve the problems of food and housing for the workers of the public sector and the low-level employees. We shall make each of them a home owner, a new plan that will take effect in 2 months. The president affirmed that the state will focus on public sector workers and on low-level employees because it is no longer the state of the minority, as it was before, but is now the state for whoever lives in Egypt and is a member of the Egyptian family.

The president said: The entire world now respects and admires Egypt, which has qualified as a power in the world through its understanding. It has won the admiration of the entire world. This country was not assimilated by any colonialist. It has realized its will by its freedom, love, loyalty, solidarity and values.

Concluding his speech, the president said: I am proud because I work through you and for you, the broad base, the peasants and workers, and because you stood behind your armed forces in the glorious October War. I hope that we will meet again and work for more achievements and victories.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON DRAFT LETTER LINKING TREATY, AUTONOMY

TA020718 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 2 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Cairo, March 2 (AFP)--Egyptian and Israeli officials have worked out a preliminary draft of a letter linking a peace treaty with autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, AL-AHRAM reported today.

It said the draft was composed by negotiators from the two countries when they met this week at Camp David in the United States. The authoritative newspaper also said the document set a date for elections in the two Israeli-occupied territories, laid down the terms of their autonomy and specified the parties to take part in autonomy negotiations. It added that a further draft worked out at the meeting set out Egypt's views concerning the nature of its further diplomatic relations with Israel and when these should be established. Egypt said at the Camp David talks that the matter of selling oil to Israel should be discussed only after a treaty was signed, AL-AHRAM reported.

CAIRO COMMENTATOR: BEGIN ADDRESSING 'ULTIMATUMS' TO CARTER

LD012030 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Hasan ash-Shurah commentary]

[Text] Amid a noisy propaganda hubbub and in an attempt to get out of the dilemma in which he finds himself, Menahem Begin today stated on his departure for Washington to meet U.S. President Jimmy Carter, that the U.S. delegation at the peace talks had to change its present attitude, which is pro-Egyptian.

This statement, together with the previous, more provocative and more aggressive statements against the U.S. administration, is like an ultimatum from Israel to the U.S. administration, which should get ready from now on for more trouble and disturbances that Israel believes it can cause President Carter and his administration should they not heed this ultimatum.

In this respect, Menahem Begin, in the torrent of statements he has made, deliberately alleged that there was a grave (?rigidity) in Egypt's attitude. Let us carefully consider the meaning of the word grave, which Begin stresses. Let us ask Begin: What is grave about Egypt's attitude? Is demanding the implementation of the Camp David accords with regard to the West Bank and the Gaza sector, and Egypt's insistence on a timetable for the stages of implementing these accords and linking this with the realization of the peacesteps with Egypt, the great gravity which Begin is alleging? Is the United States' support for Egypt in its principled and just attitude one aspect of this gravity, from Begin's viewpoint? What use, then, are these Camp David documents, which Begin himself signed, if they are not to be implemented? Let Menahem Begin tell us when and how he will honor his commitments regarding the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

Menahem Begin has not answered these questions; he does not want to honor his commitments made at Camp David and he is trying to evade them by any means, even if that means entering into a frank and open confrontation with the U.S. administration. Menahem Begin's plan to achieve this is no longer a secret which he is anxious to keep; he is making this known quite openly, even before he lays foot in the United States, and at the expense of U.S. interests. To achieve this goal, Menahem Begin has no qualms at all about resorting to allegations, detours and evasions, creating side-battles and even to addressing ultimatums if need be, as if everything has been turned upside down, as if Israel has become the great power which has the right to give orders to the U.S. administration and address ultimatums to it, and as though this administration will have to bear the consequences if it does not heed Israeli orders.

It was with this conceit, arrogance and intransigence that Menahem Begin today left for Washington to meet President Carter--as if Begin were telling the world that he had addressed an ultimatum to President Carter before meeting him, and that he will be turning the U.S. arena into a battlefield with forces against the U.S. administration unless the U.S. Government changes its pro-Egyptian attitude. It is as if he is also saying that the logic of right and justice must not prevail in the U.S. outlook. It is as if Menahem Begin wants the U.S. viewpoint to be in support of no one but Israel, regardless of how wrong Israel is. Menahem Begin imagines that the concepts and thoughts on which he was brought up, and which are why he is condemned as a previous terrorist leader, are the ones which must prevail, dominate international relations and form the basic features of the U.S. viewpoint regarding the problem which is troubling the whole world, and which the world is trying to find a solution for before it is too late.

We have no more to say than to stress that through his beliefs and the method he is following in dealing with the cause of peace and his attempts to evade the burdens of peace which he has not taken into account, Menahem Begin is deceiving not only himself, but he is also deceiving and misleading the Israeli people, who more than any other long for a peace which they have been waiting for all their lives. Begin, moreover, is gambling with the future of Israeli generations and is forcing them into missing the only opportunity that has become available after 30 years of bloody struggle and the state of division and anxiety which the region is experiencing.

Menahem Begin's health and the effect of this on his actions and nerves might be one reason why he loses his temper and acts nervously; this explains many of his actions. Such a statesman is dangerous not only to those with whom he deals, but even more so to his people and to himself. The Israeli people who put him in the decision-making position should bring Menahem Begin to his senses and make him act according to his stature and the capabilities of his state, instead of leaving him to toy with their future, placing Israel itself in the position of facing a storm which it cannot face and whose consequences and effects it cannot bear. It is not too late. The Israeli people still have time to act and to correct the steps of their leaders, putting them on the sound path which leads to peace--for which the peoples of the region and the whole world aspire.

CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS FROM VISIT TO ZAIRE 1 MAR

NC012045 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] The chief of staff of the armed forces, Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi, and the military delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening from Kinshasa at the conclusion of a 1-week official visit to Zaire.

IRAQ TO PARTICIPATE IN ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

JN011732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Iraq has decided to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Kuwait on Sunday to discuss the developments between the two parts of Yemen.

Iraq's delegation to the meeting will be headed by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

PDRY MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT

JN021152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, PDRY planning minister and envoy of PDRY leader 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, arrived here at noon today.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, 'Abd al-Wali said he is carrying a written message from the PDRY leader to President al-Bakr related to developments in the situation between the two parts of Yemen.

The PDRY envoy affirmed his country's readiness to benefit from any proposals that may stop bloodshed among the sons of the one people and foil the imperialist plots and schemes, which are aimed at disrupting the unity of the Arab ranks.

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT, DELEGATION CONCLUDE MEETINGS, DEPART

Meeting on Oil Cooperation

JN011123 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim received Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister Mirza Nurul Huda here today.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral oil relations and ways of developing them, as well as the possibility of a cooperative exchange of expertise to both countries' benefit.

The Bangladesh minister is a member of the delegation accompanying President Ziaur Rahman on his visit to Iraq.

Foreign Ministers' Talks

JN011328 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 March--Iraqi-Bangladesh official talks began here this morning under Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Minister Shamsul Haq.

During the talks they reviewed in detail political issues of joint interest, bilateral relations and the possibility of strengthening them in the future, relations among the Islamic states, the situation on the Indian Subcontinent, and the current dispute in Southeast Asia. They also discussed matters related to the nonalined movement, the means to make the forthcoming nonalined conference in Havana succeed, and the situation in the Arab area. The views of the two sides were identical on the issues discussed.

Presidents' Talks

JN011757 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and his guest, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, this evening discussed ways to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed several Arab and international issues. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi; Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian re. m; and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsul Haq.

Departure for Home

JN020919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 March--Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman left Baghdad for home this morning after a 3-day official visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. He was accorded an official sendoff at Baghdad International Airport by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Revolution Command Council members, ministers, senior state officials and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq.

NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN011144 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 March--Nepalese Foreign Affairs Minister Krishna Raj Aryal arrived here at noon today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq of several days.

Aryal said his visit is part of the continuous meetings among the two friendly countries' officials to discuss ways of developing bilateral relations. He added that Nepal and Iraq are linked by relations of friendship and are constantly working to further develop these relations.

JUNBLATT, LEBANESE PARTY DELEGATION DEPART

JN021116 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation led by Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, left Baghdad this morning for Beirut at the end of a 4-day visit.

Junblatt told INA that he had discussed with officials the latest developments in the Arab area, particularly the situation in Lebanon, and ways of confronting imperialist and Zionist schemes aimed at partitioning Lebanon and striking at the revolutionary movement.

Junblatt said the discussions concentrated on methods of tackling the situation in Lebanon to serve the future of the Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance groups through application of the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions. These resolutions are considered a sound approach for rebuilding the institutions, particularly the army, on a stable national basis.

The delegation included Radi Farahat, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member in Lebanon; Muhsin Ibrahim, the communist action organization secretary general; and 'Isam Nu'man, Lebanese National Movement Political Central Council member.

AL-HUSS' CAR REPORTEDLY HIT IN CROSSFIRE

NC011930 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At noon today, the Syrian posts in the Museum-Al-Barbir area suddenly opened fire at pedestrians while the Chamber of Deputies' Finance and Budget Committee was in session. A state of confusion resulted during which the deputies moved from a room in the south of the building to the speaker's room. Prime Minister al-Huss' car, which was parked in front of the main entrance of Mansur Palace, was hit in the exchange of fire. The pedestrians threw themselves down on the streets or took cover behind cars for about 30 minutes. A number of women who were in the area fainted; the police at the Chamber of Deputies brought them into the building and gave them the necessary aid.

SYRIAN SOCIAL NATIONAL PARTY MEMBER ASSASSINATED IN LEBANON

JN011810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 1 March--Rightwing elements today assassinated a member of the Syrian Social National Party and wounded three others in an ambush in the Al-Kurah area in northern Lebanon.

The party issued a statement calling for staging a strike in the Al-Kurah area against the rightist attacks and practices in the area. The statement calls on the authorities to punish the rightist elements who perpetrated the incident.

AL-HUSS POSTPONES VISIT TO ARAB COUNTRIES

NC021240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces Col Sami al-Khatib joined the meeting at 1140 and Defense Minister and Army Commander Gen Victor al-Khuri at noon.

After the meeting, which ended at 1245, Prime Minister al-Huss summed up its results, saying: Due to the developments in the Arab situation and the dictates of the situation in Lebanon at present, it has been decided to postpone my intended tour of certain Arab capitals to a later date, which will be fixed in the light of consultations we will have with the Arab countries concerned. It has also been decided that Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus will represent Lebanon at the next meeting of the Arab League, which will convene in Kuwait this Sunday.

Asked if there had been a decision yet on Saudi Arabia's decision to withdraw its contingent from the Arab Deterrent Forces, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We are still in touch with the Saudi officials. I have nothing to add on this question now and I am waiting for the results of these contacts. Naturally, we hope there will be no withdrawal.

The prime minister was then asked: In the event that the Saudi contingent is withdrawn, are there contacts with some Arab states, such as Jordan and the UAE, to fill this vacuum? He answered: The arrangements which can be made to fill the vacuum, if it occurs, are being discussed by the government and among the commands responsible for security in the country.

There is no cause for alarm in this regard. It is premature to announce definite substitute arrangements before the situation regarding the Saudi contingent has been clarified. The prime minister denied that Lebanon has sent an envoy to Saudi Arabia to prepare his forthcoming visit. He also denied that any Syrian envoy will visit Lebanon at present.

SARKIS MEETS WITH SAUDI DIPLOMAT, IRAQI ENVOY

NC011330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At 1230 today, President Sarkis met with the Saudi charge d'affaires, Abu Bakr ar-Rafi'. They discussed new developments and the subject of the Saudi force in the Arab Deterrent Force. After the 20-minute meeting, the Saudi charge d'affaires said: I had the honor of meeting with President Sarkis, to whom I conveyed a message from his brother, His Majesty King Khalid. It was a friendly occasion and an opportunity for the two fraternal countries to exchange views. We also touched upon Prime Minister al-Huss' forthcoming tour of some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. The Saudi officials welcome the visit, but in view of their engagements, they have requested that it be postponed, the date to be fixed through coordination between the officials in both countries.

At 1000 today, President Sarkis met with the Iraqi ambassador to Lebanon, Qasim as-Samawi, who came to bid President Sarkis farewell on his departure from Lebanon following his transfer to another post. Following the 75-minute meeting, the Iraqi ambassador said: It was a farewell visit, but we took the opportunity to have a general discussion with President Sarkis on various current subjects pertaining to the Arab arena, Lebanon in particular. We discussed the complicated subject of southern Lebanon.

Replying to a question, the Iraqi ambassador said: President Sarkis asked us to convey his greetings to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

Asked about the authenticity of rumors on the withdrawal of the Saudi contingent operating with the Arab Deterrent Forces, he said: We discussed this subject with the president who is handling it.

The Saudi charge d'affaires was asked whether the message he conveyed to President Sarkis was related to the subject of withdrawal of the Saudi unit. He answered that all these matters are contained in the message.

Al-Huss, Saudi Diplomat Talks

NC011334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss was informed today that Saudi Arabia welcomes his visit and that a date for the visit will be fixed very soon. On the occasion, the prime minister met with the Saudi charge d'affaires at 1000 today. After the meeting, the Saudi charge d'affaires said: We discussed the Arab tour that Prime Minister al-Huss intends to make. Asked if the date of Prime Minister al-Huss' visit to Saudi Arabia had been fixed, he said: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom welcomes the Lebanese Prime Minister's visit.

Asked if he informed Prime Minister al-Huss of the date of withdrawal of the Saudi forces, he said: No.

SAUDI CONTINGENT COMMANDER MEETS WITH ADF COMMANDER

NC011906 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At 1030 today, Staff Col Sa'd al-'Ayshawi, the commander of the Saudi contingent in the Arab Deterrent Force [ADF], visited the ADF commander, Col Sami al-Khatib, at command headquarters and informed him about the order which was issued to him by the Saudi Army chief of staff. Colonel al-Khatib asked him to continue to perform his duty as usual until preparations are completed for replacing his contingent and the timetable for the (?departure) of the contingent is drawn up.

RIGHTISTS REPORTEDLY PREPARING TO FIGHT ADF

JN020959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 March--Lebanese Nationalist Movement sources stated that the rightist militias have begun military preparations and that the overall eruption for which they are preparing is imminent.

These preparations took on new intensity after the announcement of the withdrawal of the Saudi contingent operating with the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]. The militias' acts in the capital and in northern Lebanon yesterday were a clear indication of the militias' intentions and of their insistence on a complete battle with the ADF before its mandate is extended in April.

Security reports from northern Lebanon today say that the militias massed about 1,800 troops in the eastern hills surrounding the northern coastal city of Al-Batrun, after building a great number of fortifications and new roads among these hills.

The newspaper AL-WATAN, Lebanese Nationalist Movement organ, reports that a Zionist lieutenant colonel is supervising the establishment of the fortifications. This officer is always accompanied by Samir Ja'ja', the military official in charge of the Phalangist Party in the area. The paper also says that artillery and tank positions can be clearly seen in this area.

A communique on the security situation issued by the ADF command last night drew the citizens' attention to the large contradiction between the militia commanders' statements on their desire for calm and their actions in stacking sandbags, putting up road blocks, evacuating people from various areas, collecting arms and developing gun emplacements in the areas of Kasrawan and Al-Matn.

FATAH OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

JN011841 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Hatim, officer in charge of the Fatah Foreign Relations office, today met with Comrade Roberto Velazco San Jose, Cuban ambassador to Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the situation in the region and various other current issues.

ISRAELI PLANES OVERFLY LEBANESE AIRSPACE

JN021349 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 2 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 March--Zionist planes flew over southern Lebanon this morning at a low altitude. The INA correspondent in the south said that the joint forces fired on the Zionist planes and forced them to flee.

IRANIAN RELIGIOUS MEN IN BEIRUT CRITICIZE AS-SADAT

NC021110 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Mar 79 p 3 NC

[Text] "Struggling Iranian religious men" in Beirut have released a statement in which they commented on As-Sadat's remark that "he would stand by the shah, who fled from Iran." The statement said that the Islamic religion "disavows agent As-Sadat because he has surrendered to Zionism."

The statement noted As-Sadat's earlier attempts in citing some verses from the Koran when he visited Jerusalem, adding that this time he is attempting to cover up his betrayal and challenge the will of 35 million Muslims in Iran by claiming that his protection of the shah is an Islamic duty.

The statement pointed out that the shah had given Anwar as-Sadat funds that he stole from the Iranian people.

The statement affirmed that Islam calls on As-Sadat to "hand over the criminal to the lawful Islamic authority for trial and punishment for the crimes he committed against innocent people."

BA'TH PARTY, SENEGALESE PARTY ISSUE STATEMENT

JN261254 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--The delegations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Senegalese Socialist Party have denounced Israel's continued occupation of the Arab land and denial of the Palestinian Arab people's national right to their land and homeland.

At the end of their talks in Damascus yesterday, both delegations stressed that it is not permissible to tackle the situation in the area without participation of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. Both delegations praised the current efforts to strengthen the unitary steps and relations between Syria and Iraq.

Concerning Lebanon, both delegations condemned Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon and interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and support for the armed groups that are acting to prevent the Lebanese authorities assuming control over southern Lebanon. Both delegations stressed the commitment of their parties to the nonalined policy. They praised Arab-African cooperation and urged doubling this cooperation in the political, economic and cultural domains. Both delegations expressed their absolute support for the just struggle waged by the revolutionaries of Zimbabwe and Namibia to eliminate racial discrimination in southern Africa. They denounced the colonialist alliance between the racist regimes in Africa and Zionism and imperialism. The Syrian delegation to the talks was headed by Comrade Mahmud az-Zu'bi, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and head of the Regional Students' Office, and the Senegalese side by (Lamin Diyak), member of the Socialist Party Central Committee.

GREEK PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN011522 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 1 March--Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus for home at noon today at the end of a visit to Syria.

The Greek prime minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; a number of ministers; the governor of Damascus; and the Greek ambassador and members of the Embassy staff in Damascus.

In his departure statement to a SANA correspondent, Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis said: I wish to express my sincere thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and his government for their warm hospitality. I also wish to express my pleasure with the outcome of my talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister al-Halabi. Referring to his talks in Damascus, Karamanlis said: These talks confirmed the strong traditional friendship existing between our two peoples. He added: We decided during the talks to expand and strengthen our cooperation in various fields. We also exchanged views on developments in the Middle East problem and in the Cyprus crisis. We also studied the dangers resulting from these current crisis.

Karamanlis added: Our views were identical regarding the fact that a just solution to these problems requires the implementation of the relevant UN resolution. He added: I am leaving Syria with the best impressions about my visit, particularly my personal contacts with President Hafiz al-Asad--a prominent political personality. I hope to continue my talks with the president and I have invited him to visit Greece, he said. In conclusion, Karamanlis greeted the Syrian people and said: They are our friends.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT PLEDGES 'UNCHANGED' FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE

LD011609 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 17 Feb 79 p 1 LD

["R.N." report: "President Chadli reasserts desire for national independence in messages to sovereigns, heads of state and heads of government"]

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has sent messages of thanks to several sovereigns, heads of state and heads of government in reply to the congratualtions sent to him on his election as president of the republic.

In these messages, the head of state reasserts Algeria's desire to continue its action with a view to establishing peace and security in the world. Our country remains open--though steadfast in its principles--to the broadest negotiations, with a view to reaching, through dialog, a just settlement of all international problems.

President Chadli Bendjedid underlines in his messages our country's desire further to promote mutually advantageous cooperation with foreign countries. This stance stems from a principled line clearly defined by the national charter and specified by the National Liberation Front Party program.

Algeria's stands on all international problems are known and remain unchanged. Our country is still resolutely attached to strengthening its national independence. As President Chadli Bendjedid stressed in an interview with the ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE, "We cannot forget our pledge with regard to just causes, and we confirm our attachment to nonalinement as one of our principal revolutionary options."

In his message to Josip Broz Tito, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the head of state reasserted, among other things, that "Drawing from the principles and objectives of nonalinement the inspiration for a shared advance, our two countries have succeeded in joining their efforts to strengthen the cohesion of the nonalined movement to safeguard the people's national independence and self-determination and for a new, more equitable international order which will guarantee progress, peace and international security."

Apart from national independence, the qualitative strengthening of our relations with the socialist countries remains a fundamental principle of our foreign policy. This line is based on solidarity with the anti-imperialist, anticolonialist, anti-Zionist and anti-apartheid struggle.

In his message to Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU secretary general and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, President Chadli Bendjedid stresses that "Algeria, pledged to building a socialist society in accordance with the national charter, has always found in the USSR a prime and choice partner.

"In conveying to you Algeria's attachment to strengthening and extending the traditional ties with the USSR," he continues, "I remain convinced that our two countries, involved in the same struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism, will continue to unite their efforts for the triumph of the people's liberation, progress, justice and peace in the world."

Relations with France are the subject of Algeria's abiding interest. Our country has frequently stated its desire to promote mutually advantageous cooperation with France in a spirit free of reservations.

In a message to President of the French Republic Valery Giscard d'Estaing, President Chadli Bendjedid notes that "The messages exchanged recently emphasize well our joint desire to place cooperation between Algeria and France not only within the context of our two country's higher interests, but also of the requirements of improving relations among all the states of the western Mediterranean, of which we are one, in the spirit of freedom, justice and peace and all peoples, great and small.

"I am indeed convinced," the head of state continues, "that the extent and intensity of the ties between our countries, to which I would add the human dimension of Algerian emigration to France as well as the dignity and security to which we attach the greatest value, call for the establishment of friendly relations based on balanced advantages and interests."

Algeria offers itself as a partner to countries wanting to strengthen their relations with it on the basis of equality and strict respect for its principles and options. It is attached to negotiations on all international problems in order to guarantee stability in the world and rapprochement among the peoples.

In a message to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, President Chadli Bendjedid stresses that "Just like you, I am convinced that both our people's interests now demand that Algeria and the United States develop their cooperation and work to strengthen peace in the world. Also," he notes, in reply to Mr Carter's message, "as long as conditions permit, I am sure that the meeting between us which you hope for will undoubtedly help to strengthen relations between our countries."

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI OPENS GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SESSION

LD011534 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--At 10:40 this morning (Jamahiriyah local time), the secretary-general of the General People's Congress, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, inaugurated the opening session of the General People's Congress in order to select the new general secretariat of the General People's Congress and the new General People's Committee on the level of the Jamahiriyah as the last stage of selection.

At the beginning of the session, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made some remarks about the selection process, expressing his appreciation of the democratic style used in the selection process and the quality of the people selected as secretaries of qualitative committees and heads of municipalities' committees.

In today's morning session the General People's Congress selected Mr. 'Ali 'Abu al-Khayir secretary for congresses' affairs, Mr. Abdallah Zahmul secretary for people's committees' affairs and Mukhtar Qurbu' secretary for trade unions and vocational associations' affairs.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. 'Abd al'Ati al-'Ubaydi, who has been selected to secretary-general of the General People's Congress, previously held the position of head of the General People's Committee.

Mr. Muhammad az-Zuwayy, who has been selected under secretary of the congress, previously held the post of information and culture secretary.

As to Mr. 'Ali 'Abu al-Khayir, he was the secretary of the People's Congress in Benghazi municipality while Mr. Abdallah Zahmul was the secretary of the People's Congress in Tripoli municipality and Mr. Mukhtar Qurbu' was the secretary of the producers union. Mr. Muhammad ash-Shuwayhdi was selected information and culture secretary through a process of direct free selection by the members of the General People's Congress. Mr. ash-Shuwayhdi is now holding the post of chief-editor of the Arab culture magazine which is widely read in the Arab homeland.

AL-QADHDHAFI ON SEPARATION OF AUTHORITY, REVOLUTION

LD020045 Tripoli JANA in English 1633 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 1 March, JANA--The leader of the great First of September Revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, referred to the separation of the authority from the revolution. He stressed that everybody, in the country and abroad, is now convinced that revolution is something while authority is something else, for the revolution will remain and is not a question of election, selection or appointment. Like faith, it comes from within and is an initiative, even a risk in its beginning. On the eve of the great First September Revolution, we have risked our lives and those of thousands of soldiers and innocent civilians.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the revolution is not a post but a principle. A person remains revolutionary until he loses his revolutionary fervour, like a person who remains faithful until he loses his faith. No one can restore faith. Similarly if a revolutionary loses his revolutionary fervour no one can restore it to him. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added that many friends, comrades and people dear to us dropped out and lost their revolutionary fervour and all our attempts and prayers failed to restore it to them.

He affirmed that no one could prevent others from practising the revolution, for the revolution cannot be described in an administrative, functional or legal concept, nor is it an attribute one can adopt by decision, law or vote. He said that as long as we are revolutionaries our mission is to defend the revolution, assert all the dicta it introduced, establish the law of the revolution, ensure the success of the comprehensive revolutionary transformation, achieve the revolution's aims and let the revolution spread from one people to another.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that the revolution has a historic mission beyond the secretariat of the congress, any other people's committee or post. He said that the leadership of the revolution shall not be involved in any post secretariat or people's committees, but will join the forces of the revolution and work for it, adding that this path is open to any one present, or absent.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ASKS ABOUT DIPLOMAT HELD BY SAUDIS

LD272100 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 27 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEW AGENCY--The Jamahiriyah's Foreign Secretariat made contacts with the Saudi Government through its embassy in Tripoli to enquire about the fate of the Libyan Arab diplomat Abdussalaam Bashir Butweirat [name as received] who is detained by the Saudi authorities.

Mr Butweirat is employed at the Jamahiriyah's Embassy in Yemen Arab Republic and not in Yemen People's Democratic Republic as previously reported by us. Mr. Butweirat left Aden on 17th October 1978 on Saudi Airlines flight No 795 on his way to the Jamahiriyah via Jidda where he was detained by the Saudi authorities.

MOROCCO

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ARAB LEAGUE MEETING TO DISCUSS YEMEN

LD011346 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Morocco has supported the convening of an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to debate the armed conflict between the two Yemeni states. A statement issued by the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation says that the minister of state, M'hamed Boucetta, received a cable from the Arab League secretary general, Mr Mahmud Riyad, conveying the YAR Government's request to urgently invite member-states to hold an emergency meeting of the league's council on the armed conflict between the PDRY and the YAR.

Out of its concern to preserve unity in these critical circumstances which the Arab nation is passing through, and out of its belief in overcoming differences among brothers by way of constructive dialog,his majesty's government endorses the convening of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, and appeals to the brothers in the two Yemens to immediately cease fire in order to spare Arab blood. The government also asks them to withdraw their forces inside their respective borders to avoid any deterioration in the situation and escalation of the conflict, which is not in the interest of the Arab nation.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RELIEVES TWO REGIONAL MINISTERS

JN281823 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 28 (SUNA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri relieved two regional ministers and appointed two others. According to recommendations by the president of the High Executive Council of the Southern Region, President Numayri today issued a decree relieving the regional culture and information minister, Dr Lawrence Wol, and the regional minister of wildlife conservation and tourism, Mr Samuel Gai Tur. The decree also appointed Mr Ambrose Ring as regional minister for culture and information and Mr Thomas Kume as regional minister for wildlife conservation and tourism.

Comments on Regional Reshuffle

JN281824 Khartoum SUNA in English 1755 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Juba (southern region), Feb. 28--President of the High Executive Council of the Southern Region (HECSR) Joseph Lagu said the recent reshuffle in the regional government was inevitable and continuous to avoid tribalism and to adopt a policy of decentralization. President Lagu had recently issued republican decrees relieving 17 regional ministers, advisors and commissioners and appointing new others. Addressing a mass rally organized here today, Mr Lagu said that during the past year he studied merits and demerits of the political and executive action.

TUNISIA

GOVERNMENT AGREES TO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON YEMEN

LD011654 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] We have learned from the Foreign Ministry that Tunisia has agreed to the convening of an urgent session of the Arab League Council to look into the worsening situation at the borders of the Republic of Yemen. This meeting aims at settling differences and at intervening to check this Arab bleeding.

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA MEETS WITH PDRY, YAR ENVOYS

LD020020 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this afternoon recived at Government House in Al-Qasbah, Nasr Nasir 'Ali, envoy of President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The envoy handed the prime minister a message from the PDRY chairman for President Habib Bourguiba on the development of the situation between the two Yemens. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri and Hamid al-Abid, director of the prime minister's office.

Nasr Nasir Ali stated that the talks had been very positive and dominated by a fraternal atmosphere, and that views had been exchanged in complete frankness and cordiality. The views coincided on the need to avoid war and to solve problems peacefully. On Yemeni unity Prime Minister Nouira said that every sincere Arab will work to achieve Yemeni unity, but that this issue is in the hands of the Yemenis alone. Nasr Nasir Ali had talks with the foreign minister prior to his meeting with the prime minister.

At 2000 tonight, Hedi Nouira received 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], who was accompanied by the personal envoy of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR. The YAR president's special envoy said after the meeting--which was attended by the foreign minister--that he handed Prime Minister Nouira a message from the YAR president to President Bourguiba concerning the current situation in the Yemens. Al-Asnaj arrived in Tunisia tonight. He said that the situation between the two Yemens was dangerous and deteriorating and had reached a stage which demanded a settlement of the conflict before [word indistinct]. He added that the YAR delegation had come to Tunisia because it has always contributed to the solving of differences between Arab countries to the unification of ranks and [word indistinct], and that the objective of the visit is to inform Tunisian officials of the state of affairs so that they would stand by what is right and contribute to the settlement of the situation in a way that guarantees justice.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ON 22 FEB OPERATIONS

LD262046 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A statement by the Saharan Defense Ministry states that within the framework of the Houari Boumediene offensive, the Saharan revolutionaries have carried out a number of operations in southern Morocco.

On 22d February they attacked Lemsid Garrison with heavy weapons. On the same day the Saharan fighters attacked a unit of the forces of occupation which came from Bouerate barracks and inflicted heavy losses on it. In these two attacks the losses of the invading forces totaled 23 dead and more than 30 wounded. In addition two armored vehicles and nine army trucks were destroyed, and large quantities of weapons and military equipment, including two jeeps, were seized.

The statement adds that on the same day, the Saharan revolutionaries launched another attack on the forces of Echediria Garrison, totally destroying a position of the forces of occupation, and killing 15 soldiers and wounding 15 others.

LEADERS COMMENT ON, SUGGEST INTENSIFICATION OF CONFLICT

PA020251 Paris AFP in French 1748 GMT 1 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Outside Tindouf, 28 Feb (AFP)--On the occasion of the 3d anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (RASD) on 27 February 1976, the Saharan leaders have hinted that the Western Sahara armed conflict might be intensified in the next few weeks.

Opening the commemorative ceremonies in the presence of the representatives of some 100 political, labor and humanitarian organizations from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Arab world, Mohamed Abdelaziz, POLISARIO front secretary general, affirmed that increasingly more intense military operations are being constantly unleashed by the Saharan Liberation Army (ALPS) within Moroccan territory.

The Saharan military operations in southern Morocco, which have multiplied since early last summer, had been until then concentrated south of lOued-Draa. Only one of these operations had been conducted more to the north: the Tizgui-Remz attack in Tata Province.

For his part, during a news conference in which some 105 international newsmen participated, RASD Prime Minister Mohamed Ould Lamine said that the Western Sahara war had already entered a new phase, the objective of which was to expel the force of occupation after having proven to them, during an earlier stage, that the Saharan people do exist. As of this 3d anniversary, and after having so far waged a war to defend our entity and prove to our adversaries that our people do exist, we are now launching a total war of liberation throughout the entire Saharan territory to expel the forces of occupation.

The two Saharan leaders then left an opening for Mauritania so that it could assume its responsibilities. They once again appealed to the Mauritanian leaders so that the peace initiative set in motion after Premier Mokhtar Ould Daddah's downfall, which was followed by the POLISARIO front's unilateral ceasefire, will not be shattered. If Mauritania does not act more seriously regarding the search for peace, Lamine added, we shall act in accordance with its maneuvering attitude and, therefore, our war of liberation will acquire a new dimension.

The POLISARIO front secretary general, who for the first time acknowledged that he had held a summit meeting with Mauritanian chief of state Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck--probably in Tripoli last autumn in the presence of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi--sounded pessimistic about the results of the Mauritanian-Saharan talks currently underway. He stressed his astonishment that these talks are not progressing when at their start, he underlined, the Mauritanian chief of state had assured him that Mauritania did not have any territorial claims over Western Sahara.

For the two top Saharan leaders, the situation would improve if Mauritania put an end to the state of war by withdrawing its troops from that part of Western Sahara which it occupies. Should the presence of these troops in the southern part of our country prolong itself, Lamine stressed, a new war could be unleashed against Mauritania. The [words indistinct] is in motion but it has not yet arrived safely.

The Saharan prime minister also confirmed officially that meetings had taken place last summer in Bamako between a representative of the POLISARIO front and a Moroccan delegation which included Redha Guedira, King Hassan II's personal adviser. These meetings, Lamine added, in fact constitute Morocco's acknowledgement of the POLISARIO front. But the Moroccan delegation has asked us to carry out Morocco's expansionist objectives [words indistinct] Moroccan army occupied our territory.

Regarding this, the Saharan prime minister fraternally asked the Moroccan leaders to return to the path of justice and truth so that we may be able to establish the relations of cooperation that we are fated to establish.

POLISARIO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL ISSUES STATEMENT

LD222350 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 22 Feb 79 LD

[Text] After 3 years of sustained armed struggle, the Saharan people have made themselves felt as a reality and this is also admitted by those who did not want it. This was said in a statement made in Paris today by the assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO front.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed explained that, equipped with established institutions, maintaining relations with several countries and enjoying considerable support, the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic is, at present, a framework in which the irresistible will of a people is unfolding.

After recapitulating the military and political victories won up to today by the people of the Western Sahara, the Saharan leader turned to the designs worked out in Morocco. He noted that the latest of these consists in shifting the problem from its true framework in order to distort the facts and therefore complicate and deliberately freeze the situation in the Western Sahara.

He asked: How else are we to interpret the attempt to make credible the thesis of an alleged, bilateral Algerian-Moroccan conflict? Once this thesis was put forward, the Saharan leader continued, a noisy propaganda campaign was set in motion aimed at making the ill-informed believe that a magic solution could be found by eliminating the principal element concerned, namely the POLISARIO front, which therefore now finds itself forced to repeat elementary and indisputable truths [words indistinct].

First of all, the assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO front said, to implicate Algeria unjustly and for the sole reason of claiming the right to pursue bitter memories against Algeria and to disregard the will previously expressed by the Saharan people through the institutions it has given itself, reeks of bad faith and the macabre design of prolonging a conflict which has stained the region in blood and is mortgaging the interests of all its partners.

Second, the failure to respect the independence of the Saharan people, the partitioning and the occupation of its national territory are fundamental reasons for the conflict.

Third, the POLISARIO front is the emanation and incarnation of the will of the Saharan people, and the principal party in the conflict which, up to the present moment, has provided the Saharan people with its opposition to its Moroccan-Mauritanian aggressors.

Fourth, any final solution must necessarily carry through the full satisfaction of the national aspirations of the Saharan people and the recognition of the POLISARIO front as interlocutors.

Fifth, it is only when all these conditions are met that peace can become a reality and cooperation a possibility; it is then that the peoples of the region will be able to tackle the task of constructing a common future.

Furthermore, the assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO front added, the front wishes to make the following points clear:

1. Being unable to silence any longer the resentment of the Saharan people and their fighting forces, henceforth it considers any shilly-shallying on the part of the Mauritanian leaders as deliberate and aimed at indefinitely prolonging the status quo;

2. The first military operations within the framework of the Houari Boumediene offensive against the town of Tan-Tan are merely a foretaste of what the Saharan fighters are capable of and what they are determined to do in order to answer Moroccan intransigence and military fait accompli. They also serve as a warning that the Saharans are determined to solve the problem drastically and militarily if necessary.

3. Any attempt devoted to the solution of the problem, if it is to have any impact, must not depart from the fundamental facts of the problem; responsibilities must be placed where they belong, instead of deflecting them.

Bachir Mustapha Sayed concluded: The struggle to impose national independence and peace will continue.

BEGIN HOLDS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER 1 MARCH

TA020526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Last night Prime Minister Menahem Begin conferred with President Carter, a talk that lasted 2 hours. At the end of the meeting the prime minister said that the talk was good and useful. Two additional talks with President Carter will be held this afternoon and evening. The prime minister will also have a meeting with Secretary of State Vance. Our reporter in Washington Eli Nisan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording--Nisan] At the end of one of his longest workdays, Mr Begin left his first meeting with President Carter encouraged and in good spirits.

[Begin] A very important and good meeting and an excellent atmosphere...

[Nisan--interrupting] Was it encouraging?

[Begin] It is possible to say that it was encouraging, yes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Were there difficult moments?

[Begin] No. There was not even a single difficult moment. I think it was one of the most important talks I have ever held with the U.S. President. Tomorrow, at 1000, the delegations will meet. Tonight we will have a Sabbath night supper just as we did at Camp David and sing Sabbath songs. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: BEGIN WANTED TO POSTPONE SUMMIT; CARTER REFUSED

TA011233 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Mar 79 p 1 TA

[By MA'ARIV service]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin tried to persuade President Jimmy Carter to agree to hold the meeting between them next week rather than this week, but President Carter refused and told Begin it was impossible.

It appears that this attempt by Begin to postpone his trip to Washington by at least 1 week was made during the telephone call Carter made 2 days ago in the evening. The prime minister received the call at the end of a very tiring working day.

The prime minister probably wanted to avoid a proximity of events: the rejection of Carter's appeal to participate in the summit with Khalil and the invitation to a personal meeting with President Carter. However, Carter was insistent that Begin must come to Washington this week and that their meeting could under no circumstances take place next week.

"Carter sounded as though time is very pressing for him," it was remarked in Jerusalem.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

TA011915 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1710 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Excerpt] Qiryat Mal'akhi, 1 March--"We have reached the limit of concessions beyond which we may endanger our very existence."

This was said by Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin during a tour of Qiryat Mal'akhi on Thursday. Yadin was speaking in a local hall to heads of institutes, educators and other representatives of the public. Among other things, he said he had come directly from Ben-Gurion Airport where he had seen the prime minister off on his most important mission designed to promote the cause of peace. He noted that the prime minister is facing two tasks: one is to promote the negotiations and the other is to strengthen relations with the United States in the wake of the recent misunderstandings that have developed between the two friendly countries.

Yadin added that senior Israeli ministers felt that by our conceding the entire Sinai, including the settlements in the Rafah approaches, everyone understands that we have reached the limit of the concessions we can make in our drive toward peace. However, Egypt has recently presented deviant demands, some of which run counter to the Camp David agreements. "It is possible to achieve peace within days if the parties honor the clauses of those agreements," Yadin added.

LABOR PARTY CALLS ON BEGIN TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS

TA011956 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The Labor Party today called on the prime minister to make supreme efforts to overcome the differences developing in the negotiations with Egypt so that the 30-year war with Egypt will end and be followed by a period of coexistence. The Labor Party's reactions team also called on Egypt to retract its intransigent demands which delay the conclusion of the negotiations.

PERES TO MEET WITH EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN PORTUGAL

TA281714 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Chairman of the Labor Party MK Shim'on Peres left for Lisbon yesterday as a guest of the conference of the Portuguese Socialist Party. On his way, Peres will stop in Paris and Antwerp as a guest of the United Jewish Appeal.

Upon his departure, Peres said that an Egyptian delegation was invited to the conference in Lisbon and it is supposed to be headed by Butrus Ghali. It is not clear now who will head the Egyptian delegation in light of reports about Ghali's hospitalization in Washington. Peres expects to meet with the Egyptian delegation in the course of the conference in Portugal. He will also meet with the heads of the Portuguese Socialist Party, with Senegal's president, with Francois Mitterand and other socialist leaders.

In answer to a question, Peres said that the issue of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Portugal will be informally raised in his talks with Mario Soares, the secretary general of the Portuguese Socialist Party.

PERES SUPPORTS BEGIN'S RESISTANCE TO U.S. PRESSURE

TA011449 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] MK Shim'on Peres said in Paris that if the United States pressures Israel, everybody in Israel will support the government. The head of the Labor Party made it clear that although he disagrees with Mr Begin regarding the best possible solution in the future, he supports him fully as far as U.S. pressure is concerned.

MK Peres said he is confident the prime minister's visit to Washington will lead to the convening of a summit with the participation of President as-Sadat.

CANADA TO REPRESENT ISRAELI AFFAIRS IN IRAN

TA010630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Canada will represent Israeli affairs in Iran. This was announced by the Foreign Ministry spokesman. Israel was ordered to close its representation there when Khomeyni's people took over.

LIBERALS DEMAND BEGIN DISSOLVE ABSORPTION MINISTRY

TA020849 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Mary 79 p 2 TA

[By Sarah Honig, POST political reporter]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Another volley in the ongoing Herut-Liberal skirmish was fired yesterday when the Liberal Party Executive demanded that the prime minister do away immediately with the Absorption Ministry.

The demand, couched in harsh words, came from Jewish Agency Chairman Arye Dulzin, opening another round in his feud with Herut Absorption (and Housing) Minister David Levi.

Dulzin warned that he would become the leader of the opposition to the government if his demands were not met. "When Levi was first given the absorption portfolio, Begin promised that the ministry would be phased out. Now that Levi has alternative employment and is housing minister, it is time for Begin to scrap the Absorption Ministry," Dulzin argued.

Herut recently gave its full backing to Levi's demand that a new absorption authority be established under the supervision of a minister.

Trade Minister Gid'on Pat backed his liberal colleague Dulzin, noting that his demands "are not a private matter. There is no one listening to us in Herut. They are probably behind Levi, but they should know that just as the government cannot stand without Herut, so it cannot do without the Liberals."

JERUSALEM POST: MAPAM REJECTS DUAL LEADERSHIP

TA020902 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Mar 19 p 2 TA

[By Sarah Honig, POST political reporter]

[Text] Tel Aviv--MAPAM will continue, for the time being, to be led by a single secretary-general. The party Central Committee yesterday rejected a proposal that party head Me'ir Talmi be succeeded by a twosome.

According to party insiders, this indicates failure to resolve the crisis that has plagued the party for the past few months.

The MAPAM Bureau suggested several weeks ago that Talmi, who announced his intention to retire, be replaced by two secretaries-general to maintain a balance between feuding kibbutzniks and city dwellers. The two nominees put forward were city man Naftali Ben-Moshe and kibbutznik El'azar Granot.

After a number of speakers yesterday came out strongly against the idea of having two at the top, Ben-Moshe rose and said he would not stand for the post. His decision to step down meant the automatic failure of the dual-leadership idea, since no other suitable candidate had been found.

JERUSALEM POST REPORTS HATZOFE TO CLOSE IN 1 MONTH

TA020842 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Mar 79 p 1 TA

[Text] The National Religious Party's newspaper "HATZOFE" is to close down within a month, Israel radio reported last night. The radio said the 12-man board recently appointed to work out the paper's difficulties has told the three works committees that in order to pay the staff what they are owed, it will close down and sell the 42-year-old newspaper's plant.

HADDAD WILL NOT LET UN DEPLOY THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA012111 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2045 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Metulla, 1 March--Major Haddad, the commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon, has rejected outright General Erskine's demand that the UN soldiers be allowed to deploy throughout southern Lebanon and as far as the border fence.

This demand was discussed by General Erskine, the commander of the UN force in southern Lebanon, and Major Haddad at a meeting today. They also discussed the expected deployment of the Lebanese Army inside UNIFIL territory in southern Lebanon and the relations between Haddad's men and the various UN units.

There was a clash today between the UN soliders and terrorists in the vicinity of At-Tayyibah and (lalmu). Clashes also occurred between terrorists and Christians. Major Haddad's forces and the militia returned artillery fire toward the terrorists, who attacked from their fortified positions in Beaufort Castle and fired in the direction of Marj 'Uyun and Al-Qulay'ah. No damage or casualties were reported.

One terrorist was killed and two wounded in a clash between UN French paratroopers and terrorists belonging to the Democratic Front. The clash occurred on Wednesday in the vicinity of (Al-Kafr). The objective of the terrorists was to seize positions and areas evacuated by the departing French battalion before the Dutch soldiers arrived. The vanguard of the Dutch unit arrived with their vehicles on Wednesday.

BAZARGAN ADDRESSES NATION ON GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS

LD011857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Message to the nation by Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the provisional government of the Islamic revolution of Iran, on 28 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon my dear compatriot aisters and brothers. I think this is the third time I have spoken to you. The last time was when I introduced to you the second series of ministers on 9 February. Since then the third series of ministers was appointed on 22 February, and I will mention their names in order to be on the safe side, although they are probably known. They are as follows

Dr Shari'at-Madari	Minister of sciences, culture and the arts
Dr Eslami	Minister of post, telegraphs and telecommunications
Rear Admiral Ahmad Madani	Minister of national defense
Dr Gholam Hoseyn Shokuhi	Minister of education and training
Naser Minatchi	Minister of information, propaganda and religious endowments

At any rate, I wished to be able to bother you less, to be seen less and to talk less, in order to keep more affection for myself. This is because our government and I myself are very keen on and need this affection and the tie between the government and nation. Our strength and means of work is this selfsame tie of friendship, affection, confidence, sincerity and [word indistinct] which may exist. I will not conceal from you that we do not have any force or other means at our disposal.

Following the fall of the regime and after these events, the police disintegrated, and the same more or less applies to the gendarmerie. The members of the armed forces have also fled, except for the air force, which to a certain extent remains intact. The other sections have all been stricken with a scourge and extraordinary disruption. Therefore, we do not possess the force of military arms, and a great deal of arms are in the hands of the people. Nor is there a majlis that could pass laws and render us lawful support. We have rid ourselves also of the shadow of the shah, of the shahanshah. Therefore, nothing has been left and we have nothing except the protection and the grace of God and your helping hand. And somewhere in the midst of all this is the ayatollah, and a handful of colleagues and friends. Therefore, we greatly need your enthusiasm, cooperation and support.

Of course, there is still affection, praise be to God. Whenever I walk down the road I see smiles, rejoicing, happiness and sincerity on the faces, lips and in the eyes of the people, from primary school children to old men and women. They show both enthusiasm and obedience. There is only a small minority and a few people--small in number but highly vocal, pretentious and full of expectations--who have chosen a separate road. Of course, I do not say that these are bad people who harbor evil intentions. No, most of them harbor a great deal of goodwill and intend to serve. The existence and emergence of this minority has been voluntary and on the basis of necessity and self-denial, and they have rendered valuable services, too; but they have forgotten and do not seem to realize that the revolution has changed and conditions have changed, and the phase--as I mentioned in my previous speech--the phase of attack, destruction and violence has come to an end and the phase of construction, positiveness and management is now with us.

A great many classes expect that we should cross 100 years overnight, and suddenly turn this inferno of despotism and ruin left by the first phase of the revolution into a luxuriant and grandiose paradise blessed with abundance and security. There has been immense criticism, innuendo and sarcasm that our appointments are at fault, that this or that shortcoming exists in this or that selection. There have also been extensive approaches in person and claims on us for payments, reforms and the expectations which the people entertain.

Now, have we ever said that all the people whom we appoint, above all ourselves, are of the mettle of the Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib or Malik al-Ashtar, or that they are the Einsteins of the age? Have I ever said that the government claims immunity from sin? Or have we made the claim that during the 24 days since the inception of this government--for part of which time the government had only one person in it--that in this period or perhaps in the next 2 or 3 months everything would be shipshape and tidy, and that everyone will obtain their just rights, solve their problems and obtain their demand, that all projects will be set in motion? We have never made such claims as might encourage such expectations, or that such cavilings should be leveled at us. We never said that all the ills would be cured in one day. Of course, I do not say that people should not criticize us, or that they should not make suggestions that would be inappropriate. And I never say that the former system should not be changed, should not be reformed, should not even be turned upside down. Finding fault will only begin [as heard] when these criticisms and protests destroy morale, become hostile, retarding, paralyzing and obstructive and--God forbid--cause the demise and destruction of the realm. This is the time for finding faults.

You demand revolution from us, an excellent, all-embracing and immediate revolution. But we do not make such a claim for ourselves. Our government is a provisional government, a transitional government, forming a transition between an extremely undesirable situation and an ideal situation. Of course, we do not say in words that we oppose--nor do we in fact oppose--revolution. We are preparing for revolution, but we only do this with study, time, power and greater strength. This is the revolution we want. We announced the program earlier and this has been repeated.

However, certain people, with what they are endowed--with their indecent haste, militancy and extremism--carry out deeds which obstruct the government. These people may be divided into two groups: One is made up of the committees under various names--committees of the imam, strike committees, revolution committees or revolution council committees--and the second one of hasty, extremist groups and individuals. There are many committees and they exist in Tehran and the provincial cities. No one seems to know their pedigree--not even the imam himself--although they act in the name of the imam and very often they use official stationery bearing the Prime Ministry's markings. No one knows them. They are not controlled by anyone and a great many of them do not receive instructions either from the imam or from the government.

The second group which I beg to inform you about is made up of very hotheaded and, by their own admission, revolutionary--but really extremist--groups, ideas and individuals characterized by a wish to see the immediate and complete implementation of all their programs and desires.

I shall now endeavor to refer to each briefly, first, the committees. The committees should be looked at from two different points of view: Those of the past and those of the present. In the past, their emergence and existence were extremely timely and appropriate as they guarded and liberated our revolution and constituted a factor for victory. They stood up to attacks and assaults. They did their guard duty and immediately afterward went in pursuit of the enemy. They deserve gratitude and appreciation.

Some, however, are not this way. In the present circumstances, they do two types of work: One good and appropriate, and another bad and inappropriate. The good work is when they guide traffic at the crossings and avenues or when they guard thoroughfares, buildings and premises. But their inappropriate work--which may possibly stem from their goodwill--consists of the arrests they make, the instructions they issue when they obstruct work. They are people who interfere in departments and institutions over and above--and often despite and against--the duty and work of the government itself. They are obstructing and bothering matters. It is this last part which turned our day into a black night and put a spoke in our wheels. Should this type of thing continue, the government would not be able to do anything and would have no other option but to resign.

They go to government offices, close them down and kick out those people whom we have appointed temporarily to help to sort out your problems. And they do these things regardless of the fact that we appointed these people. They even arrest them, take them to prison and threaten them physically. And worst of all, more frightening and dangerous, are their attacks against embassies and foreign nationals, a fact which disgraces the realm, Islam, the revolution, this government, the imam and everybody, and completely ties our tongues and hands.

As you know, after the revolution a great many projects and enterprises run by foreigners had to be stopped and shut down. Foreign governments themselves, too, were interested in taking steps to safeguard the security and lives of their nationals, and to take these people out of the country. Agreement was reached between us that wherever these foreign nationals were they should be taken away not by sea but by land or air to Tehran Airport, from where they could leave in their own aircraft, of course after showing their passports and clearance papers. A report reached of to the case of 27 experts and contractors who had been either employed by or were under contact to the Defense Ministry. When an aircraft from Tehran was dispatched to move them, the local population--always in the name of the committee--confronted and arrested them. We then contacted one of the religious leaders in Mashhad and begged him to go and advise these people and prevent this deed. The gentleman in question did so, but he was told: These people owe us money. They should pay their debts and then we will let them go. They were then told: These people are not your adversaries. There was a certain company involved and, moreover, the government will guarantee that you will receive what is owed to you. Despite all this they refused to budge. So we sent an aircraft from Tehran, and the embassy involved sent representatives with the sum of 15 million rials on our behalf to the place in order to pay the money to the people concerned and obtain the release of the detainees. So when the flight comes from Tehran the local committee, again in the name of the imam or the revolution, under the pretext that the commander of the air force is not their emissary and is not acceptable to them, prevents the flight from taking place. But I will not tell you the rest.

You now see that no worse nor graver disgrace could ever take place. One cannot imagine a worse opposition, obstructionism, annoyance, disgrace and shackling of the government. How could a government which has been appointed by the nation at the instruction of the leader of the nation act under these circumstances, and what face will be saved for the nation?

They drive out the soldiers and officers from the barracks and place the realm in the worst possible position.

The second category or group is the self-same extremist, sometimes deviationist and hotheaded revolutionaries with hasty ideas, and individuals who want everything accomplished quickly. Their views are as follows: Arms should not be laid down despite the instructions and emphasis graciously made by the imam that dealing with arms and wielding and owning arms is sinful and forbidden by religion. They also believe that the army, as it is an imperialist army, should be dissolved, wiped out and destroyed to the last serviceman and to the last weapon. They believe that the offices, institutions, factories and organizations should be run by councils appointed by the officials and individuals from the lower echelons--that is, management from below--and that the state of revolution, war, hostility and change should continue. The above is in a nutshell a summary of the views of those people who insist on their views without bothering to propose the same to the supreme council of revolutionary projects, or to propose them to the nation so that discussions might take place on them in order to find out in this overall context whether such things are possible or not.

What I can now tell you briefly is that if our army is to be utterly destroyed because its men and commanders were formerly employed and enslaved by the despotic or colonialist apparatus, who else, then, remains from the previous apparatus who was anything but this? Did not our educators, whether school directors, education ministers or primary school pupils, take part in marches? Did they not praise and make propaganda for the shah in festivals of the Rastakhiz movement? Were our propaganda machine mass media, press and others anything else but this? Why should we concentrate on the army? Moreover, why should our army be so belittled, denigrated and insulted? Just as the imam has graciously said, the army and its soldiers and officers have returned to the nation. They belong to the nation and the nation belongs to them. They were so powerful and they had so much military equipment that, had they wished, they could have easily crushed our revolution. But they did not wish to do so. They did not do so.

Moreover, one cannot but ask the question: Could the safeguarding of the realm and the defense of its borders--and at that a realm as vast as ours on which eyes are focused from the four corners of the world--be possible without an army? Could a people's army or revolution guards be able so soon to take the place of regular, well-equipped armies, which possess aircraft, tanks, armored cars and thousands of technical and military items? Could the training of such a cadre, which has been prepared after spending billions of dollars, be achieved so easily? Is there any country in the world, whether leftist, rightist, old or new, which could protect itself without an army?

By the way, they say we ought to fight imperialism with our people's army and that this present army belongs to imperialism. Should imperialism harbor any ill designs it could use one of these methods: either a direct attack on the country--which of course international conditions do not allow at present--or penetration and domination and the taking over of the government, which I do not think you would believe possible with regard to this government, a national government and other governments that follow, or via a fifth column within the country; or through weakening morale inside the country and cooperation with all agents and elements who resort to instigations and wish to destroy this revolution, blacken its name, render it ineffectual and bar the way to the government and its progress. Therefore, should imperialism harbor any ill designs and ideas against this realm, it could only carry them out this way or through the army, an army which like other organs should be cleaned up and can be cleaned up, as this is not all that difficult.

This is the same way of thinking which, for instance, prompted a committee under the name of the imam in Mahabad to take steps to disarm the battalion-strong garrison of Mahabad, and thereby opened the way to various separatist thoughts and provocations, secession and foreign penetration. The very coarse way they behaved toward the embassies and foreign nationals--please take note--afford these people lovely and excellent pretexts, which we could not answer or prevent. All the world accepts that when an embassy is subjected to armed assault which results in the arrest of its ambassador, and when its nationals are detained, killed or something else, all international laws allow the government concerned to land means of defense, arms and forces. So far they have not done so, thank God! But had they done so, we would not have been able to object in accordance with international usage and judicial matters. And had they done so, that would have been a pretext for another government and yet another government and goodness knows where this would have led. So far God has saved us, although several instances of acts against embassies have taken place.

As to the view that revolution and the state of war should continue, this is a view entertained by certain schools of thought, and I do not wish to reject it in its entirety. But what is definite is that the overwhelming majority of the Iranian nation does not pursue this idea. They do not wish Iran to turn into a second Beirut or Lebanon. The overwhelming majority want it to settle down so that there is peace, security, activity, reforms, a revolution in its positive and real sense, and the establishment of a government of justice, compassion, charity, goodness, progress and happiness.

Well, I once again repeat that we do not say that revolution should not take place, that we should not take steps to this end. We have worked out Islamic projects and ideas. They could support these ways, join us in step. What we say is that there should not be anarchy; security should not be barred; the realm should not descend into a black day; the government should not have its hands tied; and contradictions should not come about. On the one hand, the moment we say that we wish to reduce such and such a wage by so much, there is immediately a huge outcry from every corner. While on the other, we ought to have money. As for oil exports--and we have begun to do so, praise be to God--it is appropriate that our oil should be exported. However, with these acts of sabotage, obstructionism and with these games, oil cannot be exported. Therefore, no program can be fulfilled. On the one hand they tell us to run, and on the other hand they tie us hand and foot with ropes.

Let us summarize. These two phenomena and factors--that is, the committees and these extremist and hasty groups and ideas which impose their views--are two major dangers which not only obstruct the work of the government, but constitute a great danger to the security, welfare, life and existence of the realm, and to the revolution. These committee games, these acts of extremism and impositions, not only do not allow those who indulge in them to achieve their aims, but will not allow the nation and realm to implement the programs which they desire. As the poet has said: Neither of the vine nor of the vine-grower a sign remains! This is how it could become.

It was essential for me to come on television, to explain again your position and to issue a warning. In my political life I have made many prognostications, and all of them have come about. And I must prognosticate that with this state of affairs, should it continue--God forbid--and should such activities continue, the realm will be beset with a far worse crisis, more critical than that prior to the fall of the regime.

In order to bring the revolution to fruition, in order to allow the government to succeed in its programs and make your demands achieve results, there is no other way but to cooperate with this government, to support the government and to obey the instructions of the government with method, logic, commonsense and firmness from the very foundation.

Of course, we accept the revolutionary programs, we accept the demands, but we want them to be channeled correctly and to be brought into fruition soon. Moreover, this government is not a dictatorial government. The Revolution Council is supervising it, public opinion is keeping an eye on it and, furthermore, the revolution leadership is awake, vigilant and rendering it support.

However, as I have said so far: Our uneasiness, our groans and our warnings stem from the minority, as I have informed you. The majority do not have this pressure, they are supporters, backers, are intent and friendly, but we have a remonstrance to make to them, we find faults in them. Our remonstrance to them is that, firstly, why are they, too, in such haste? Why do they bring all this pressure to bear, why do they once again want all the work, reforms and demands to be implemented speedily? Why do they not support this government, if the government is their own, if it is a government of which the imam has said: Opposition to this government is opposition to God and is a sin? Why do they not answer these opposition people, these obstructionists and saboteurs? I do not say answer them with arms. Answer them with logic, with meetings and truth and impartiality.

For 50 years the people of the realm became used to putting up with the burden of the satanical system, without uttering a sound, while kowtowing, kissing hands and fulfilling commands. What has now happened is that all of a sudden they want the maximum freedom and the carrying out of their aspirations and demands in the form of anarchy, while they are not prepared to put up even for 5, 10 days or even a month with things which were much worse and more readily acceptable under the authorities of corruption and oppression? What manner of thinking is this?

Our Kurdish brother who for 50, even 100 years has had his rights, dignity, language and faith trampled under foot by the governments, the rulers--the rulers of despotism and colonialism--and has had no right to life, could he not find a better opportunity and chance than to come right now at this sorry time of our strained circumstances and critical and dangerous juncture, and claim his lost rights and ask for more? Could he not be patient? Could he not have faith and confidence in the revolution?

In conclusion, I would like to read a short chapter from the Koran, although a prime minister should not provide an exegesis to the Koran, but as a human being, I will be an exception. It is an extremely short chapter: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through time, verily man is in loss, except such as have faith and do righteous deeds, and join together in the mutual teaching of truth, and of patience and constancy. Nevertheless, despite all I have said, I am by no means despondent and I am not dissatisfied with the nation and people--that is, with my masters and those of the government--and I also have hopes, and confidence in the cooperation and backing of the nation.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 1 MARCH

Cabinet Approves 'Important' Bills

LD011350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] At the cabinet session today several important bills were approved. We now bring the text of these bills to your attention:

Bill concerning the establishment of the state general inspectorate organization:

Article 1--In order to secure the necessary conditions for the good conduct of affairs and for uncovering financial and administrative malpractices in ministries, including civilian, military and government organizations and agencies, or agencies affiliated with the government, as well as government-owned banks and enterprises, or those administered by the government or through regular government subsidy, and municipalities and public service organizations, an organization named the State General Inspectorate Organization affiliated to the Ministry of Justice will be established. The minister of justice will be the head of this organization.

Article 2--The duty of the State General Inspectorate Organization will be inspecting ministries, including civilian, military and organizations coming under the purview of this law, and investigating individual complaints against these organizations and their staffs with regard to their duties.

Note: Organizations and enterprises which require legislative authorizations are also covered by the provisions of this law.

Article 3--The justice minister, in implementing the duties assigned to him under this law, will have a deputy who will be selected from among judges with law grade eleven.

Article 4--The State General Inspectorate Organization will have the necessary number of legal and administrative staff. The legal inspectors will have at least the law grade seven and should have spent two-thirds of their period of service in courts and judiciary offices.

Article 5--In the course of inspection or investigating complaints, should the organization find that an offense has been committed, that there has been an administrative malpractice or an infringement on someone's rights, it will be reported to the relevant judiciary or administrative authorities, as the case may be. The organization, similarly, may make corrective proposals to the appropriate ministry or organization concerned.

Article 6--The organization may assign inspection duties to any judges or any officials in the organizations and enterprises covered by this law. Those receiving such assignments will be required to carry out their duty in accordance with the organization's instructions.

Article 7--The teams selected for inspection duty may, if necessary, temporarily relieve administrative staff of their posts. The head of the team, who will be selected from among the judges, may use the authority of a public prosecutor in connection with the matter under investigation.

Article 8--The ministries, organizations, enterprises, government or government-affiliated agencies, state organizations and those in charge of public services, municipalities, firms, government and nongovernment banks and public notaries are obliged to reveal and make available information, documents and papers, and other materials that are deemed necessary for investigation and inspection, on orders from the legal inspector or a representative of the organization, except in the case of classified government documents, in which case the revelation and availability of these documents will depend upon the decision of the justice minister.

Article 9--Procedures relating to the organization of inspection teams, the manner in which the inspection will be carried out in investigating complaints, will be governed by regulations which will be prepared by the Justice Ministry and approved by the cabinet.

Article 10--The Justice Ministry's General Inspectorate department and the imperial inspectorate organization will be dissolved, and all their duties, files, documents, assets, credits, budget and employees will be transferred to the State General Inspectorate Organization.

The bill regarding exemption from electricity charges for low consumption domestic electricity subscribers has been announced as follows:

Subscribers whose monthly electricity consumption is less than 100 kilowatt hours will be exempt from electricity charges with effect from 28 August 1978. Subscribers whose monthly consumption is between 100 and 150 kilowatt hours will pay for only 50 kilowatt hours of their consumption at the rate of 2.90 rials per kilowatt hour. Subscribers whose monthly consumption is greater than 150 kilowatt hours will pay for all their consumption in accordance with the domestic tariff rates.

Note: Each apartment will be deemed as one subscriber in the context of the above exemptions.

The bill regarding exemptions from water charges for low consumption subscribers:

Subscribers whose monthly water consumption is less than 100 cubic meters will be exempt from water charges with effect from 23 August 1978. Subscribers whose monthly water consumption is between 10 and 15 cubic meters will pay for only 5 cubic meters of consumption at the rate of 13 rials per cubic meter. Subscribers whose monthly water consumption is in excess of 15 cubic meters will pay for all their consumption at the existing rate.

Note: Each apartment will be deemed as one subscriber in the context of this exemption provision.

Status of Shah's Palaces

LD011252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Engineer Hashem Sabbaghian, deputy prime minister for transition of power, in an interview with the press and radio and television correspondents this morning, said extensive activities have begun to sort out the status of the palaces belonging to the former shah and his family. The status of the staff working in these palaces will be clarified soon. He noted that in the context of the (?decree) passed by the provisional Islamic government, all the assets of the Pahlavi family will be expropriated and will belong to the government. Engineer Sabbaghian stressed that the assets contained in these palaces are truly fabulous, and some articles are priceless. For example, so far 36 carpets have been collected from the palaces in the neighborhood of the Prime Ministry Palace, some of them worth as much as 25 million rials. The deputy prime minister for transitional affairs also said: Investigation regarding 54 enterprises supervised by the Farah Bureau has also started, and the results will be announced soon. He added that the Sa'dabad Palace complex will be turned into a park, and other palaces will be maintained as museums.

Arrests in Tabriz

LD011350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Imam Khomeyni committee at Tabriz airbase has announced that in last night's scattered shooting in the city a group of counterrevolutionary elements were arrested and taken to prison.

A PARS correspondent has also reported from the Iman Khomeyni committee at Tabriz airbase that Dowlatshahi, former head of the provincial arts and culture department, who was trying to escape by plane, was arrested at Tabriz airport and taken to prison. According to the same report, Tabriz is peaceful at present.

Khomeyni in Qom

LD011323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, after many years away from the holy city of Qom, arrived there today amidst a tumultuous, rare and glorious welcome by the people of Qom and neighboring towns.

Execution in Qazvin

LD011144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hoseyn Karbala'i Mohammad, a military police sergeant of the Qazvin 11th Armored Division, charged with the killing of a number of innocent people during demonstrations in Qazvin on 28 December, 1978, was sentenced to death after interrogation and confession by an Islamic revolution court. The sentence was carried out this morning by the Qazvin Islamic revolution guards.

Executions in Abadan

LD011138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to PARS, two Abadan police warrant officers were executed at dawn today for the murder of Abadan citizens. A statement issued today by the Abadan Islamic justice revolution court said that at its meeting on Wednesday, the court investigated charges brought against the two warrant officers, Jahangir Zakeri and Hoseyn (Taji), and after the charges were substantiated the sentence was carried out at 0400 in the presence of a number of the martyrs' relatives at the city's revolution square.

Canada To Oversee Israeli Interests

LD01112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Canadian Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Canada has agreed to look after Israeli interests in Iran. The Iranian revolutionary regime recently broke off diplomatic relations between Iran and Israel and expelled the Israeli Embassy staff.

Defense Minister in Zahedan

LD011752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] At 1300 today, General Madani, minister for national defense, together with the deputy minister of sciences, and Mr Daneshi Narui, the new governor of Sistan-Baluchestan, and some clergymen arrived in Zahedan. At Zahedan airport, General Madani, in the presence of some representatives of the people of Baluchestan, made a speech on the problems of the area and issues of the day.

Appeal to Mahabad Garrison

LD011800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1625 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, please listen carefully to a circular issued by the chief of general staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army:

In the name of the Almighty, on the basis of remarks made by His Great Excellency Imam Khomeyni, who stressed that the zealous personnel of the National Iranian Islamic Army have played a great role in the promotion of the Islamic revolution goals, and considering that the army must organize itself to carry out its religious national and revolutionary duties we call on all personnel of the Mahabad garrison, who last week reported to other garrisons, to return to their respective garrison and resume their duties.

Entezam Press Conference

LD012211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The government spokesman, Abbas Amir Entezam, this morning took part in a press conference. He started by announcing the approval by the Revolution Council of a bill on the establishment of the State General Inspectorate Organization; a legislative bill regarding exemption from electricity and water charges; and a legislative bill in connection with payment of new year bonuses, as well as a few other decrees.

A correspondent questioned him about the referendum, asking whether the phrase "Islamic government: yes or no" would be written on the cards, or whether two cards, one green and one red, would be introduced?

Entesam said: This is a decree approved by the Council of Ministers and Supreme Revolution Council, for the revolution is an Islamic revolution and the great majority of the people have expressed their support for the leadership of our leader [Khomeyni]. What is being introduced now is the wish of the people.

A correspondent asked: What percentage of the plants engaged in assembly work will be closed? Has the government a program for the workers in these plants to be sent to rural areas to engage in agricultural activities?

Mr Entezam replied: In his many press conferences, Mr Khomeyni has commented on the erroneous agricultural policies of the past. The government is studying the situation to formulate some programs to remove these difficulties and establish certain priorities.

Another correspondent asked: Do you not think that the purging of government departments and underestimating the task in the light of Islamic justice would help increasing unemployment?

Amir Entezam said: A great many departments, including the office of the prime minister, suffer from redundant employees. This would subsequently lead to wasting the time of many people who could be useful in other centers. We have dismissed 48 people in the office of the prime minister, while maintaining parts of its budget. Amir Entezam added: Within the next few months unemployment is expected to rise, for a great majority of people in this country do not work for the government. They are doing other jobs. However, God willing, after the introduction of certain programs by the government, these people will be engaged in the near future in general, industrial and agricultural spheres.

Answering a question about stopping some fringe benefits, Entezam said: There is no reason whatsoever for these benefits to be stopped. The point is that under Islam there should not be such a thing as classes. The majority of people must enjoy all opportunities. These opportunities must not be confined to a specific class.

Asked about the retrieval of weapons held by the people, the government spokesman said: Fortunately, the Revolution Guards Corps has started its work. We are going to witness the outcome of this operation by the corps in the very near future. With the formation of the corps, measures will be taken to retrieve the weapons. At present, there are no accurate figures about these weapons.

A correspondent said: This revolution encompasses all Iranians, under which all Iranians have the right to express their views. There are those who are worried about certain things, and these people express their worries and views. Is the government disturbed because people reflect their views in the press?

Amir Entezam said: As pointed out last night on television by Mehdi Bazargan, our problem is not concerned with criticism of the government. There must be criticism. The problem is how this criticism is expressed. We expect that such criticism should be in tune with the times and in a proper language, so that it will not trouble our compatriots. Under the circumstances, when the government is facing a mountain of problems, its possibilities are very limited. Therefore, I do not see the need for so many demands in such a short time.

The spokesman added: The government has repeatedly expressed the wish to be informed about people's ideas and views. However, it is one thing to make suggestions and propose solutions, and quite another to deal crushing criticism at a time when it is harming the revolution.

Amir Entezam, asked about the activities of certain people who pose in various government departments, without having been authorized by the government, said: The actions of these individuals are not acceptable to the government.

Asked about those people barred from leaving the country, Amir Entezam said: What was published in this connection in the papers last night was based on a list covering international criminals, rather than present political criminals. A few people right now are working at the office of the prime minister. We hope that the list will be ready by the end of the next week to be communicated to the passport department as well as the border areas. Afterwards, the government will immediately issue instructions lifting any ban on leaving the country. Obviously, those whose names are on the list will be excluded. This should then solve the problem for those wishing to leave the country.

Ayatollah Taleqani Meets Khomeyni

LD012250 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1759 GMT on 1 March carries an 80-minute recorded interview with Ayatollah Taleqani, a prominent religious leader who played a significant role in the success of the revolution. Taleqani is asked, among other subjects, about the significance of the revolution, the collapse of the old regime, and the farreaching reverberation of the revolution throughout the world.

Asked about his meeting with Khomeyni, about which so much had been reported and written, Taleqani says: "We really did not discuss very important issues. I have not been feeling quite well for the past few days, and in addition to other illnesses, I was also suffering from some pain in my leg, so that I could not move and was confined to my bed. The day before yesterday I heard that Khomeyni was planning to go to Qom. So I wanted to see him and find out about his sudden departure for Qom. What I wished to ask him was to postpone his departure for some time. However, he had, for his own reasons, already reached a decision in this respect. We also talked about the general situation in the country, and he stressed that the present government, despite its shortcomings, should be strengthened, so that it might fulfill its responsibility during this evolutionary period." Taleqani also comments on the problems facing the government, how appointments ought to be made, and on the need for skill and specialists in the army. He repeatedly makes references to the Koran and to Islamic precepts.

Kurdish Leader on U.S. Propaganda

LD012304 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 2030 GMT on 1 March carries a recording of the speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni in Qom today. The radio then reports that after Khomeyni's speech, Moftizadeh, a leader of the Kurdish people--who are Sunnis--spoke to the crowd welcoming Khomeyni. After expressing his support for him and praising the revolution he led, Moftizadeh is reported as saying:

"Brothers we hear that IZVESTIYA, published in the USSR, has said that the United States is making propaganda in favor of Marxism in Iran. This is not surprising, for the United States has suffered a military defeat in Iran. It is therefore resorting to other plots, for it realizes that it is possible to provoke people through Marxism, thus leading people from the right path to a path of unrest and anarchy. As claimed by IZVESTIYA, the United States is making propaganda in favor of Marxism in order to have our revolution defeated." Moftizadeh is then reported to have asked for scholars to sit down and discuss the rights of all Muslim peoples in Iran--meaning both Shi'as and Sunnis.

Kurdistan Party

LD012138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party has denied reports that the Kurds in Iran are demanding independence. Abddorahman Qasemlu, the 48-year-old party leader, said: Rumors regarding separatism are being spread by the enemies of Kurdish and Iranian people. Qasemlu referred to the Kurdistan Democratic Party as a party opposed to separatism, adding: This party is struggling for Kurdish autonomy within Iran.

New Constitution

LD012230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today: In the name of God. Yesterday, Tehran's evening papers reported that the new Iranian constitution had been formulated by officials of the Hoseyniyeh Ershad [a religious institution in Tehran] and submitted to Imam Khomeyni. While denying this report, it is announced that the new constitution has already been formulated by the famed law scholar Dr Hasan Habibi, and was presented to Imam Khomeyni while he was in Paris. [signed] Sayyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

Army Officers Retired

LD012232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to a statement issued by the chief of the General Staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army, 71 more army officers have been retired. The statement says that effective 3 March, 71 more army officers will be retired in order to organize the National Islamic Army's dimensions and make more use of young people.

Ambassador Sullivan-Sanjabi Meeting

LD012234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Text] This morning Mr William Sullivan, U.S. ambassador in Tehran, conferred with Dr Karim Sanjabi at the latter's office. They discussed relations between Iran and the United States.

Lebanese Muslims

LD012236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] The representatives of Lebanese Muslims, visiting Iran for the past 5 days, left Tehran by air for Beirut this afternoon.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 2 MARCH

Departure of U.S. Advisers

LD021045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to a UPI dispatch, 22 U.S. advisers who had worked at an eavesdropping station in northern Iran left Tehran for Paris yesterday.

Defense Minister's Statement

LD021044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report Major General Madani, minister of national defense, left by military aircraft for Zahedan yesterday in order to visit military installations in the province of Sistan-Baluchestan. Major General Madani visited various sections of the military barracks, police and gendarmerie installations in Zahedan yesterday, and took part in a meeting held by various classes of the Zahedan townsfolk at the city's mosque at 1800.

In a speech during the meeting, the defense minister spoke in detail about the victory of the Iranian nation's revolution and the struggle waged by the Muslim people of Iran under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeyni. In his speech, Major General Madani reminded his listeners that in order to extend the people's gains and the humanitarian fruits of this revolution, in which the blood of the best sons of the country was spilled, time [as heard] and unity should be safeguarded. Continuing his tour, the defense minister will also pay a visit to Chahbahar and Iranshahr.

More on Defense Minister

LD021428 Thran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Major General Madani, minister of national defense of the provisional Iranian Islamic government, who went to Zahedan yesterday on a visit to the province of Sistan-Baluchestan, left by air for Iranshahr today accompanied by Mr Danesh Narui, new governor general of Sistan-Baluchestan. Our correspondent's report indicates that after arriving in this provincial town, the defense minister made a long speech at a meeting of clergymen, Sunnite brothers, tribal chieftains and representatives of various classes in Iranshahr, in which he explained the struggles of the Iranian nation against despotism and the satanical regim of the shah. Emphasizing the need for solidarity, unity and monolithism of all strata in order to bring about a speedy fruition of Iran's Islamic revolution, Major General Madani reminded his listerners that the first results of this revolution have been, above all, implemented in your province and at your own request. The governor general, his assistant and the university rector have been selected to their posts from among the local people.

Khomeyni on Frozen Meat

LD021020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, the Imam Khomeyni, today issued instructions to the prime minister on banning the import of frozen meat and its consumption. The text of the imam's instructions is as follows: In the name of the Almighty: To his excellency the prime minister--may God support him--it is essential that your excellency instruct the authorities concerned to stringently ban the import and consumption of frozen meat and to destroy existing stocks of such meat, since such meat is unclean and forbidden. The people, too, have no right to make use of this meat as food, but could instead use the meat for agricultural purposes as fertilizer.

[Signed] 2 March 1979; Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

Ayatollah Khaqani Denounces Separatism

LD021146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] His Great Excellency the Ayatollah Shaykh Mohammad Taher al-Shobeyr Khaqani, in a speech addressed to a meeting of tens of thousands of Arabic-speaking tribesmen living in Abadan, Khorramshahr, Arvandkenar and Shadegan, has denounced any kind of separatism, saying: The tribes in this region will not allow a single inch of Iranian soil to fall into the hands of foreigners.

U.S. Monitoring Post

LD021302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 2 Mar 79 LD

[Text] U.S. officials in Washington said today that Iranian employees had detained for several days a number of U.S. technicians in a spy base in the proximity of the Soviet border. The officials concerned said: The Iranian guards of the U.S. eavesdropping base in Kabkan occupied the base at a time when the U.S. nationals were getting ready to leave it.

The United States used to make use of this base, situated 60 km from the Soviet border, in order to monitor Soviet missile tests. It was said earlier that the base was occupied by the revolutionary guerrillas, but the U.S. State Department spokesman rebutted this rumor saying that the guerrillas had not had a hand in occupying this base.

The base's U.S. technicians left Iran yesterday.

According to the U.S. State Department spokesman, all the sensitive installations on the base had either been moved abroad or destroyed prior to the base's occupation by Iranians. Observers consider the closing down of this base as a big defeat for the United States, but the U.S. authorities claim that they had considered closing it down for some time.

KURDS TO RECOVER RIGHTS BY ALL 'APPROPRIATE' MEANS

TA021327 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 2 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Mahabad, western Iran, March 2 (AFP)--Kurds in Iran are ready to recover their national rights by all "appropriate" means even if it means having to fight for them, the Kurdish Muslim leader Ayatollah Shaykh (Ezzaedin) Hoseyni said here today.

In a special interview with AFP, the Kurdish Shi'ite leader did not reject the possibility of an armed conflict if Iranian central government continued to fail to recognize the rights of the Kurds.

"The rights of the Kurds are natural ones and the government must recognize them; otherwise it will be showing its reactionary nature. The Kurdish people, with other peoples of Iran and all progressive and democratic movements would rise against this regime," the 56-year-old ayatollah said.

The 56-year-old religious leader, who is considered by the great majority of Kurds as their sole spokesman over the issue of self-government, met the AFP correspondent in a small room, sitting astride a chair, with a submachine gun at hand.

The ayatollah excluded the idea of a separate state outside of Iran for Iranian Kurds. "We are an integral part of Iran and we have defended its frontiers generation after generation," he said. The Kurds number about three million out of 40 million people in Iran.

The Iranian movement for Kurdish self-independence had no relationship with similar movements in Iraq, Turkey or elsewhere. Kurds, like other minorities, had a right to determine their own destiny, the Ayatollah Hoseyni said.

The ayatollah called for the Iranian Army to become a popular army "side by side with the people instead of confronting them, as it did in the past," and for the clergy to exclude themselves from political leadership.

"The clergy must not lead in politics but they have the right to guide, if political power is concentrated in the hands of the clergy, it leads to autocracy," he said.

All the people of Iran, including the Bahai and communists, must enjoy the fruits of the revolution unless they are at the service of foreign powers, the ayatollah said.

NVOI ON ROLE OF PEASANTS, U.S. POLICY 'REVERSAL'

TA011602 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 28 February carries a commentary entitled "The Revolution and Big Historic Days for the Farmers," which stresses the importance of the revolution for the peasants and farmers. The commentary says: The revolution, this historic opportunity, should be used for establishing a new life in the villages. For centuries the Iranian farmers and peasants have been exploited under feudalism by big landlords and by domestic and foreign capitalists. This should change completely. The peasants should expel oppression and exploitation from all the villages. "The time is ripe for this and the work should not be postponed. This is dictated by the revolution and by Islamic principles." The commentary then scores "the feudal lords and their parasitic agents" and says: "If the peasants succeed in achieving liberation and democracy, they will establish a (?new order), which would enable them not only to meet their own needs but also the needs of the urban population. The revolution has provided the opportunity for all the toiling farmers and peasants to utilize the liberation and (?to shape) their own (?destiny). It has also provided them with the opportunity for ending the ruthless domination and oppression by exploiters. These opportunities must be utilized and the peasants must be liberated in the true sense of the word."

The commentary concludes: "An end should be put to the (?rotten system), a just order should be established and radical changes should be made by forces in the cities and villages. Thus, both the peasants and the urban population should do their share of the task of creating a new society. They should achieve this by utilizing the opportunities provided by the revolution."

The radio then carries a second commentary entitled "American Plots Are Bound to Fail," which says: "Despite all their strength, the traitorous shah's regime and the U.S. (?power) in our country have been dumped into the dustbin of history, as a result of the Iranian nation's firm anti-imperialist national struggle. Neither the ousted shah's half a million troops, nor the U.S. military (?presence) in Iran and its powerful military bases in neighboring countries could prevent the victory of the Iranian nation's will and its revolution."

After noting that "the United States supported the shah, and plans for a military coup were being made until the eve of Bakhtiar's overthrow," the commentary says: "And now Carter and his advisers have completely reversed their position and are adopting measures designed to approach Iran's new revolutionary regime. Carter is now falsely stating that the U.S. interference in the Iranian incidents was extremely minimal. The reasons for his claiming this are (?understandable). But the fact is that Carter called General Huyser back from Tehran only after 80 percent of the Iranian Armed Forces supported the revolution. He withdrew the Pentagon and CIA agents from Iran because he was compelled to do so, and also in order to prevent the ousted shah's American supporters from becoming the prisoners of the patriotic forces."

The commentary says that: "The aim of Washington in approaching Iran's new regime is to win the confidence of Imam Khomeyni and Bazargan," and thus "to restore the exploitation of the country by the United States." "Along with all this, Washington talks of a threat by leftist forces. No one believes this claim which is being spread through the CIA and (?its agents) in order to create discord among the patriotic forces. However, all honorable Iranians, including the leaders of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, are fully aware that all patriots and all representatives of the social organizations and political movements are waging a united struggle against the fugitive shah and U.S. imperialism. It is vain to try to create discord within the united front of the patriotic forces, because it is impossible to restore the past."

AFGHANISTAN

FUNCTION MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHAN-SOVIET TREATY

BK020632 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] On the 58th anniversary of the signing of the first treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, a grand function was held on behalf of the minister of education and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet friendship society at the polytechnic auditorium. The function was attended by several members of the Council of Ministers of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, deputy ministers of some ministries and high civil and military officials. The vice chairman and members of the delegation of the Soviet-Afghan friendship society and some members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were present.

At the beginning of the function Assistant Professor Dr 'Aborrashid Jalili, the minister of education and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet friendship society, and (Alekseyev), the counselor and minister at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, spoke at length on the historic friendly (?relations) among the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the (?unhampered) ties of friendship between the two countries. They wished for further strengthening of these friendly ties in various spheres of social and economic life.

A BAKHTAR report says that at the end of the meeting a joint concert was given by the artists of the people's radio and television of Afghanistan as well as Soviet artists.

Taraki Message to Brezhnev

BK020442 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that, on behalf of strong teacher of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party [PDP] of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, a congratulatory message has been dispatched on the 58th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and the Soviet Union to Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and president of the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the USSR in Moscow. The text of the message reads:

Dear Comrade. I am extremely happy on the 58th auspicious anniversary of the signing of treaty of friendship of 1921 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to offer my cordial wishes and congratulations and those of the PDP and the government and the people of the DRA to you, honorable comrade, and to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the government and people of the friendly and fraternal country. The 1921 treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and USSR--that is based upon friendship, peace, good neighborliness, mutual respect for independence and sovereignty and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs and the principles and objectives of which have been indorsed and affirmed in mutual accords of friendship--has formed the main and original basis of the legal and political rights of the two friendly and neighboring countries. In conformity with the objectives and principles of this treaty and other treaties of friendship and good neighborliness, the peoples of our countries have been able during these 58 years to live in friendship, peace, cooperation and good neighborliness.

The friendly relations and cooperation among the peoples of the two countries since then and up to the present have passed through stages of development, expansion and (?growth) in accordance with their mutual interests and desire. This has not only led to the preservation and consolidation of peace in the region but it has also proved itself an effective and valuable factor with its active and enduring participation and expanding international cooperation and protecting world peace.

The December 1978 treaty of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation between the DRA and the USSR, incorporating the principles of the treaties of 1921 and (?1941) of the two countries, has (?insured very valuable experience) in the spheres of friendship, good neighborliness and useful cooperation between the two fraternal and good neighborly countries. This not only upholds the interests of our people but it will also play its useful and effective role in consolidating peace, increasing detente, and promoting real social, democratic progress in the world.

In conclusion, I wish to renew my congratulations on this auspicious anniversary and to wish for the health and further successes of you, esteemed comrade, and the growing prosperity and welfare of the noble and friendly people of the fraternal country of the USSR.

[Signed] Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Dated [words indistinct].

To the Honorable Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Moscow.

USSR DEPUTY PREMIER ARKHIPOV SIGNS AGREEMENTS, LEAVES

Economic, Technical Cooperation Agreement

BK020548 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Hafizollah Amin, the deputy premier and minister of foreign affairs, on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], and on behalf of the USSR, His Excellency Arkhipov, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, concluded an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and the USSR--the agreement (?pledges) unconditional deliveries of goods to the DRA by the USSR in the years 1980-84--and an agreement concerning the delivery of consumer goods to the DRA by the USSR for the same years between the two countries.

Cotton Contract

BK020549 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] A contract for the export of 4,400 tons of (?ginned) cotton produced by the (?goods subsidized) company and valued at nearly $7 million was signed by the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the Soviet export-import company at the ministry this morning. The accord was signed by Engineer (Gholam Rahim), deputy minister for mines and of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, and the representatives of the Soviet company.

Under the terms of this contract, the cotton will be transported and delivered in four shipments to the Soviet authorities [words indistinct].

Arkhipov Departure

JN011839 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today accompanied his guest Ivan Vasilyevich Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, to Kabul International Airport and bid him farewell at his airplane. The USSR deputy chairman arrived in Kabul on 24 February heading a delegation at the invitation of Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

PEACE, SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DENOUNCES YAR ATTACK ON PDRY

JN011853 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The Afghan Peace and Solidarity Committee met yesterday under [name indistinct] (?to condemn) the attack by the YAR against the PDRY. The committee demanded that the imperialist states stop interfering in the PDRY's affairs which [words indistinct] to prosperity and social progress. [Words indistinct] expressed its solidarity with the PDRY and demanded a stop to foreign interference in the PDRY's affairs.

INDIA

INDIAN SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON CHRISTOPHER TALKS

HK020909 Delhi ISI in English 0849 GMT 2 Mar 79 HK

[Text] At his press briefing on 1 March, which was held a few hours after the press conference of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs stated, among other things, the following:

The deputy secretary of state was received by the prime minister last evening--28 February--for about half an hour. The two sides informed each other of their respective assessments of the Chinese attack on Vietnam. The exchange of views demonstrated a clear-cut difference in the assessment as well as the approach of the two sides to the Chinese invasion of Vietnam.

The prime minister on 28 February told Christopher that India considered the Chinese attack on Vietnam with very grave concern and had called for the immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from the territory of Vietnam. The prime minister also mentioned to him that, as he had already stated in Parliament, what he had said about the Vietnam-Kampuchea situation was long before the Chinese attack on Vietnam and he wanted it to be understood that "there should be no link or nexus between the two issues."

The issue that posed a grave threat to world peace today was the Chinese action against Vietnam and the growing escalation of the fighting by Chinese troops in Vietnamese territory. This was reemphasized during the exchange of views between the foreign minister and Warren Christopher on 1 March. The foreign minister mentioned that "The talk of teaching a lesson or giving punishment to another country does not fit in with declarations to solve problems amicably and peacefully." This is a dangerous concept--the concept of a big country wanting to punish a small country. There may have been problems, but these should have been solved peacefully. Even the Chinese had not tried to link the Kampuchean issue with their own attack on Vietnam. It was difficult to say what the Chinese objective was. It was not known what was the definition of this "limited" objective.

The foreign minister again emphatically stated that no link should be attempted to be established between the urgent need for the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Vietnam and the Vietnam-Kampuchea situation. China should be persuaded to withdraw its forces from Vietnam and only then the Kampuchea question could be considered.

Nuclear cooperation: Both sides had agreed to say after 2 days of talks that "there are some unresolved problems with respect to the committee of scientists but the two sides are continuing their dialogue about the nuclear cooperation between them." Warren Christopher said that as a result of the intensive discussion that had taken place the American side had "a heightened awareness" of the concern in India over the delay in the supply of uranium for Tarapur. During the exchange of views our concern was conveyed to them. There was recognition that this was an important problem in our bilateral relations.

VAJPAYEE CONCERNED ABOUT PAKISTAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS

BK020916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, told the Rajya Sabha today that the government has received reports that Pakistan has embarked on a nuclear program not entirely for peaceful purposes. If the reports are correct, he said, it would be a very serious matter. Mr Vajpayee was replying to questions drawing the government's attention to press reports about cooperation between Libya and Pakistan for developing a nuclear bomb. He said no reports have been received so far suggesting that China is helping Pakistan in developing nuclear weapons. But the government is collecting information about the progress being made in Pakistan for developing atomic energy and for securing equipment and materials for the same.

Mr Vajpayee reiterated India's determination to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. India is opposed to the use of nuclear energy by any country for making nuclear weapons.

Replying to supplementaries, Mr Vajpayee said this policy is under constant review. He assured the members that whenever there are new developments in the neighboring countries the members will be taken into confidence before decision is taken on the matter. Mr Vajpayee told the members that ongoing programs of research and development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes are being continued without any hindrance.

NEPAL

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR IRAQ

BK281526 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 28 Feb 79 BK

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, left Katmandu this evening on a 4-day official visit to the Republic of Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi foreign minister, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Prior to his departure, Mr Aryal said that this was Nepal's first high-level visit to Iraq and that it was purely a goodwill visit. He expressed the confidence that his visit would contribute toward strengthening the mutual friendship between the two countries.

Mr Aryal said that during the visit possibilities of strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries will also be explored.

PAKISTAN

HAQ DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, BHUTTO CASE

BK011621 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there is complete understanding between the government and the leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance [PNA], both inside and outside the government. He was talking to newsmen at Lahore Airport this afternoon before leaving for Rawalpindi.

He said that his talks with PNA leaders last night in Lahore were very satisfactory. He said that the good thing about these talks was that there was no difference of opinion between the two sides. He said that the PNA had joined the government on the basis of three main principles, of which the most important was the question of the introduction of the Islamic system. Although the introduction of the administrative aspects of the Islamic system is yet to be done, he hopes that with the grace of God this will also be carried out.

He said the need at present is to keep the people informed about the progress being made in the introduction of the Islamic system. To achieve this objective, it has been decided that the constituent parties of the PNA and other parties willing to formulate the main points of the Islamic system may hold rallies in mosques and religious educational institutions. They can also use loud speakers at these rallies. He said that this will create [word indistinct] tendency and provide an opportunity for thinking about religion.

The president said that the second principle of cooperation concerned the improvement of the political climate and the third dealt with the building of a framework through which power could be transferred to the elected representatives of the people. He said that the PNA is not a separate party, but belongs to the government. The government and the national alliance are a single entity and both have a common view and stand on national affairs. He has told the PNA leaders that as soon as the (?accountability) process is concluded, the election program is to be announced. He said it is normal to announce the election program 70 to 90 days before the polling date.

In answer to a question, the president said the election program will be announced much before the independence day anniversary [14 August]. He added that everybody agrees elections should be held at appropriate times.

The president said that elections to local bodies might be held before the general elections, but if this is impossible, they can be held afterwards, provided a legal or constitutional commitment is made to hold them within a specified time. While talking about elections to local bodies, he said that he never thought about the theory of basic democracy [of former president Ayub Khan]. His aim was to hold elections to local bodies at various stages. He said that the timing of these elections is still under consideration. A decision in this connection will be announced at the appropriate time.

In reply to another question on electioneering, the president said that in his view the amount of time provided for the election campaign should be kept to a minimum. He said the PNA leaders have suggested 60 days for this purpose.

In answer to another question, he stated that there is no answer to the demand that political figures in his Cabinet should resign. He said that in no country does the government relinquish power on grounds that elections are due. He said that the present government is basically a military government and has included various persons in the Cabinet to run the country. The fact is that he had invited all parties to join the government and this still stands. Some parties did not join the government. However, there is no answer to the demand that those who had joined the government should quit.

When asked whether the government's preoccupation with the situation created by the final decision in the Bhutto case is causing delays in the election program, the president categorically denied this. He said the election program has no ties with this case. Some selfish elements are trying to gain undue advantage from the situation by raising various issues. They are not only trying to fan parochial sentiments among Sindhis and Punjabis but are also engaged in mudslinging acts against the courts. They also claim that Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq wants to stay in power forever, which is totally false.

In reply to a question, the president said that he believes that in any future political framework the role of the armed forces should be properly defined, as this is necessary in view of the three martial laws imposed in the country in the past.

He said that it should be the constitutional responsibility of the armed forces to intervene in situations such as that which occurred on 5 July 1977 to help rectify the state of affairs and avoid the imposition of martial law.

Referring to the Bhutto case, the president emphasized that this was not a political but a criminal case, even though a political person was involved. He said that those who are trying to give this case a political color for ulterior motives will not succeed.

He said that as far as the present government was concerned, it might not have given anything else to the country, but it was really proud that it had at least given the rule of law to the country.

The president said that as far as mercy appeals were concerned, it was his constitutional prerogative as president, head of state and chief martial law administrator to accept or reject them and that there were no legal implications. However, considering that this is a criminal case in which two superior courts have given their verdict, it was his view that there appeared no room for the head of state to exercise this prerogative against the decision of the courts.

Referring to mercy appeals received from other countries, he said that Pakistan has friendly relations with many countries and they have sent mercy appeals in this context. Some of them have sent their appeals on humanitarian grounds and others have followed suit. However, in all appeals it has been stated that this is Pakistan's internal affair and as such Pakistan should decide on the course of action which is in its best interests.

These countries have said that their appeals should be considered on humanitarian grounds.

The president stated categorically that all reports appearing in the press to the effect that he had received a message either in person or over the telephone were absolutely baseless. He said he has not made any commitment one way or the other with anybody. He said that this has been his stand all along and he will stick to it.

The president asked the press to play a positive role by presenting this case in the right perspective and in the best interests of the country. He said that this case should neither be given a political color nor such importance that it gives the feeling that there is no other work in this country.

U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER ARRIVES

BK020100 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr Warren Christopher, who arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Pakistan, has said he would be meeting Pakistani officials for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues.

In a prepared statement on his arrival at the airport, Mr Christopher recalled Secretary of State Vance's repeated assertions on U.S. relations with Pakistan and said American support for Pakistan's independence, economic development, and national integrity was an important principle of their foreign policy. He believed that stability and progress in South Asia were important to world peace and regional security. He said he was looking forward to an informative and productive stay in Pakistan and meaningful talks with its leaders.

Tonight, Mr Christopher is scheduled to call on the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

SUPREME COURT ADJOURNS BHUTTO PETITION REVIEW TO 3 MAR

BK280820 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 28 Feb 79 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court, hearing the review petition in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case, was assured by the defense counsel today that he would conclude his arguments by Sunday. The assurance was given by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar after the tea interval when he informed the court that as he was indisposed today the court adjourned the remainder of the proceedings for the day.

The chief justice, Mr S. Anwarul Haq, and other judges acceded to his request. The court will now resume hearings on Saturday.